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Amnesty: Khiam detainees tortured

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said on Tuesday prisoners in a detention centre in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon have been tortured and cut off from the outside world. The London-based human rights watchdog said about 200 detainees were held at the Khiam detention centre, run by Israel's allied South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia. "Most men and women held in Khiam have been tortured to get information," Amnesty said in a report. "And we fear this pattern is continuing." Although conditions have generally improved over the years, detainees in Khiam have no access to families or to a humanitarian organisation such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty said. Prisoners appeared to be held outside any legal framework, it added. The report quoted former detainees as saying they had been beaten with thick electric cables. They also described the torture or ill-treatment of close relatives. One detainee said his 50-year-old mother was tortured while being held in Khiam for three months.

Morocco receives Iraqi message

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco had talks on Monday with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz who delivered a message from President Saddam Hussein, the official news agency MAP said. The agency gave no details.

Nigeria and Israel renew formal ties

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Nigeria and Israel restored diplomatic relations on Monday after a 19-year break. "We have restored diplomatic relations today. It is an historic occasion between two nations," Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told a joint news conference with Nigerian Foreign Minister Ike Nwachukwu.

Menem begins Mideast visit

RIVADH (AP) — Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived Monday to a red carpet welcome in Saudi Arabia, the first leg of a regional tour to promote bilateral cooperation. King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence Minister Prince Sultan greeted Mr. Menem at the airport. Mr. Menem, who is of Syrian origin, was expected to spend three days in the kingdom then fly to Kuwait, Turkey and Egypt.

Moderate quake shakes Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (R) — A moderate earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale shook the Los Angeles area on Monday, but no damage was reported, seismologists said. Last month, a series of major earthquakes hit California, causing serious damage in the northern part of the state but no fatalities.

PLO, Portugal discuss peace process

LISBON (R) — A senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official discussed the Middle East peace process with European Community (EC) president Portugal on Monday. Farouk Kaddoumi, top foreign affairs official of the PLO, and Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro discussed last week's fifth round of Middle East peace talks in Washington and future prospects. Mr. Kaddoumi said he and Mr. Pinheiro discussed ways of giving "a new impulse" to the peace process during their one-hour meeting.

Egypt wants Security Council seat

CAIRO (R) — Members of Egypt's parliament, encouraged by the election of an Egyptian to head the United Nations, urged Cairo on Monday to intensify efforts to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council, official sources said. The parliament's foreign relations committee recommended the action on Monday in a report to be discussed by the National Assembly later this month.

10 sailors face hanging in Egypt

SUEZ (AP) — A criminal court signified Monday it plans to order 10 foreign seamen hanged for trying to smuggle more than 5.5 tonnes of narcotics into Egypt. Sentencing was set for May 20. The defendants, among 19 crewmen from a ship registered in a Caribbean country charged in the case, include four from Sudan, two from Bangladesh and one each from India, Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia. Mohammad Kamal Tawfik, president of the three-man court, announced that the tribunal had referred dossiers of the 10 seamen to Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Tantawi, Egypt's mufti. In Egypt's judicial system, this means the court has decided on the death penalty but will not announce it until Sheikh Tantawi, a senior government-appointed cleric, reviews the sentence. He will advise whether the men would violate the tenets of Islam, but opinion is not binding on the court.

Kabul comes under Hezb rocket barrage

Combined agency dispatches

THE FORCES of radical commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar bombarded Kabul with scores of rockets Monday, stepping up pressure on the interim government installed by rival rebel factions last week.

Hospital officials said the barrage killed 30 people and wounded nearly 100. Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said a hated judge of the ousted communist regime who was assassinated over the weekend was among eight people abducted by gunmen. The killing raised fears that rebel fighters might conduct reprisals against their former enemies despite the new government's promise of amnesty.

Government sources said many officials under former President Najibullah were now under the protection of the rebel faction led by Ahmad Shah Masoud, which controls the capital. Others have fled the country, the sources said. Mr. Hekmatyar said Sunday he would support the new government only if a rival militia was expelled from the capital, and he threatened to invade Kabul "in days" if the demand was not met.

During one 15-minute period Monday, at least 25 Egyptian-made Sadr rockets slammed into a residential neighbourhood in southern Kabul

from a position held by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami guerrillas. The rockets destroyed dozens of mud-brick houses and sent huge, choking clouds of dust into the air. Scores of other rockets also were fired into a neighbourhood near Kabul airport on the city's eastern edge.

Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami fighters were driven out of Kabul last week by fighters loyal to Mr. Masoud, the new defence minister. Mr. Hekmatyar, a bitter rival of Mr. Masoud, wants the establishment of an Islamic state more strict than that foreseen by Mr. Masoud and new President Sibtghatullah Mojaddidi.

But Mr. Hekmatyar said Sunday he would support the new government if the militia led by General Rashid Dostum left the capital. Gen. Dostum's militiamen guarded Kabul during Mr. Najibullah's presidency, but switched allegiance to Mr. Masoud early this year, precipitating Mr. Najibullah's downfall last month. The Dostum force is believed to number several thousand men and is seen as critical to Mr. Masoud's forces being able to retain control of the capital.

Mr. Hekmatyar accuses Gen. Dostum's militia of raping, looting and pillaging the Afghan capital and of holding the new rebel government hostage.

Meanwhile, fears were rising of vendettas against members of Mr. Najibullah's regime, fanned by the weekend assassination of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Abdul

Karim Shardan.

Mr. Shardan, whose body was found riddled with bullets and badly beaten several hours after he disappeared, was despised for sending thousands of dissidents to prisons, where conditions were notoriously brutal.

Minister in charge of civil aviation Wadiah Safie was still missing after being abducted at the same time by a gang that was reportedly going around an area of government housing with a list of targets.

Mr. Safie's family said they believed he was still alive, however, and was being held somewhere in the city. The kidnappings sparked fears of a wave of revenge attacks against the old regime that ruled Kabul for 14 years of civil war until last week.

Monday's rocket barrage came as Kabul's 1.5 million people were struggling to restore a semblance of normal life. Power was restored to most of the city on Sunday, and trucks arrived from Pakistan with emergency food supplies. More than 100 trucks carrying flour, sugar, medicine and cooking oil rolled into the war-weary capital after Mr. Hekmatyar lifted a blockade of Kabul. Two Iranian transport planes also delivered food. Out of the southern fringes of the city where Hezb-e-Islami fighters occupy a swathe of badly damaged and large deserted villages, one of his commanders denied they were re-

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with Pakistani Labour Minister Mohammad Ijaz Al Haq (Petra photo)

King, Crown Prince and Sharif Zeid meet Haq

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Monday at the Royal Court, Pakistani Labour Minister Mohammad Ijaz Al Haq. The meeting, which was attended by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan, discussed ways of enhancing bilateral relations.

Mr. Haq was also received by

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Prince Hassan and the Pakistani minister discussed issues of common interest and Jordanian-Pakistani relations. The Pakistani official, who arrived in Amman Friday, was also received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Discussion during the meeting centred on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields.

Los Angeles limps back to normal life

Combined agency dispatches

THE MAYOR LIFTED a dusk-to-dawn curfew and children returned to school Monday as the second-largest U.S. city aimed for its first normal work day since enduring the nation's deadliest urban rioting in 75 years.

Damage estimates reached \$717 million. Insurance companies began tallying up losses and said claims could reach \$1 billion. Overnight, the largely calm weekend was shaken when national guardsmen shot and killed a motorist who tried to run them down. The first shooting by troops on riot patrol brought the death toll to 47.

But Mayor Tom Bradley lifted the dusk-to-dawn curfew, deciding to stick by a decision he made Sunday, before the National Guard confrontation.

Even before dawn broke, there were signs the city was getting back to normal. Commuters — after abandoning the highways in the crush of last week's violence — headed back to the freeways on a foggy morning that obscured the downtown skyline. "It's a normal Monday, all right," a traffic reporter told radio listeners after rattling off a list of collisions and backups. City workers removed barriers to exits on the harbour freeway that were erected to block traffic into the stricken areas. In the heart of the ruin in South Central, downtown shops that escaped damage opened for business, serving people as they went to work, while schoolchildren filed back to school. "We're a little tense today," said resident William Curtis as he walked

his 10-year-old son to school. "It was a wild week. You can't help but be a little nervous."

Downtown, the convention trade appeared to be picking up again. Bellboys at the plush Sheraton Grande, which nearly emptied last week when worried business travellers fled the city, greeted new arrivals. Workers inside set up coffee urns for an Atlantic Richfield Co. stockholders meeting.

"There's still tension out there, but as far as we're concerned, we think everything's OK," said Howard Edwards, an executive of the Los Angeles-based oil company. Stockholders flew in from around the country, though he said turnout might be down slightly.

The riots erupted on Wednesday, raging for three days and nights. Thousands of marines and national guardsmen continued to patrol the streets Monday. Federal officials have given no word on how much longer they would be activated.

After the curfew took effect Sunday night, three National Guard troops killed a Hispanic man in a sports car who tried to crash a barricade west of downtown, police and the military said. The guardsmen fired 14 times, the military said in a statement.

Otherwise, only sporadic violence had been reported Sunday. Three people were arrested after a police station was fired on; gunmen shot at marines standing guard in Long Beach, but the marines did not return fire; a police car in south central Los Angeles was shot at; marines in Walnut Park, adjacent to South Central, were fired on from an auto, but they did not return the fire. Later, two men who tried to run a roadblock there were arrested. No one was hurt. Clergy all over the city spoke of the

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Sectarian clashes claim 13 lives in upper Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (Agencies) — The government urged religious unity Monday as police mounted a search for dozens of Muslim extremists whose attacks on Christian farmers left 13 people dead and five wounded.

The attacks were the latest in a bloody two-month-long string of vendetta strikes that already had killed four Muslims and Christians.

The vendetta grew out of a two-month-old sectarian dispute over the purchase by a Christian of a Muslim man's house.

"Preliminary evidence shows that extremist elements aggravated the dispute between the two parties," the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of Egyptian police force, said in a statement.

Hostilities "were renewed Monday, developing into a fight

with guns that left 13 Muslims and Christians dead and five wounded. They included a teacher and a doctor. The rest are farmers."

The ministry calls on citizens to protect our religious unity," the statement said. "Stop attempts to use these incidents to carry out actions affecting security."

As usual in sectarian conflicts, the ministry provided no breakdown by religion of the victims. Police sources said the dead were 12 Christians and one of the Muslim assailants.

Major General Nabil Ibad, Assiut's provincial security chief whose southern Egypt jurisdiction includes Manshiet Nasser, where the attacks occurred, confirmed at least 10 Christian dead and one Muslim. Assiut is 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Discovery of sixth body and new revelations add to murder mystery

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The mystery surrounding the killing of five members of a family in Amman last week has taken a new twist with the discovery of the body of a sixth member; adding further to the intrigue are revelations that the unprecedented multiple murders could have been in "revenge" for alleged collaboration with Kuwaitis against Palestinians in Kuwait.

A senior official source confirmed Monday that the body of Assad Saad Karim, 28, the eldest son of the family, was found in a building under construction on Mecca Street in western Amman on Sunday.

"Preliminary indications are that the cause of death was injuries sustained by gunshots, but the final results of autopsy are not out yet," said the source, who insisted on anonymity.

The source declined to say whether the bullet(s) found in the body matched those re-

trieved from the victims of the multiple killings of other members of the Karim family in Jabal Hussein. Nor did the source say how police discovered the body, whether it was established that it was a case of homicide or when the death could have occurred.

Also unanswered was the question whether police had any prime suspect or suspects or were following any definite clues or theory.

"We are at a very sensitive stage in our investigations and all facts would be made known to the public after the completion of inquiries," the source told the Jordan Times. But he voiced confidence that "we will definitely solve this crime."

Authorities are keeping a very tight lid on their inquiries into the multiple killings, which surfaced with the discovery of the bodies of Farouq Saad Karim (55), his wife Samira (45), son Usama (20), daughter Muna (16) and pregnant daughter-in-law Sahar (25) — wife of Assad Karim whose body was found Sunday

— at their home on April 26, one day after they were killed.

With the exception of the daughter-in-law, who was bludgeoned to death, all others were shot and killed at close range, police source said at that time adding that they were searching for Assad Karim, whose photograph was subsequently released to newspapers with an appeal for information on his whereabouts.

A two-and-a-half-year-old son of Assad and Sahar Karim was reported missing two days prior to the discovery of the bodies but was later found and placed in an institution under police care. There was no clear indication whether the disappearance episode was somehow related to the killings.

The elderly Karim, of Palestinian origin, was a senior official at a bank in Kuwait and had taken up employment with a private sector organisation in Amman after the family's return from the emirate after the

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Shamir rules out Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has launched his reelection campaign, pledging that a few more years of Likud Party rule would ensure that a Palestinian state never emerged in the occupied Arab territories.

Cheered on by party supporters at a packed rally, Mr. Shamir said late Sunday hundreds of thousands of Jews would soon settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "A few years of Likud rule — and there will be no more talk of the possibility of a Palestinian state. It will be completely unrealistic," declared Mr. Shamir.

The campaign opener promised a hard line by the Likud on the occupied territories and on immigration, and a no-holds-bar fight against the opposition Labour Party.

"The dream of territorial compromise will disappear," Mr. Shamir said. Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is opposed by the Bush administration and has been raised as a

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Court sentences 13 to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A military court in southern Algeria on Monday sentenced to death 13 armed "Islamic warriors" for their roles in a deadly November attack on a frontier post and ensuing skirmishes.

It was the first major trial since the military-backed high state committee took power in January to thwart an impending victory by Muslim fundamentalists in parliamentary elections.

The prosecution had sought the death sentence for 15 of the 62 suspects on trial for the past week in a military court in Ouargla, 800 kilometres southeast of the capital. Seven of the 62 were being tried in absentia.

Other sentences ranged from life to five years in prison. Sixteen people were acquitted. Three gendarmes had their throats slit in the Nov. 29 attack on the border post at Guezzam, near Tunisia, by Islamic militants. About 30 — police and attackers — were killed in ensuing skirmishes.

Among those sentenced to death was the leader of the group, Tayeb Al. Afghani alias Aissa Messaoudi, and Amar Lazzar, the mayor of Guezzam, portrayed as the band's political leader.

The group had been charged with crimes ranging from sabotage to arms theft.

The attack spelled the reemergence of armed groups of Muslim fundamentalists, mostly veterans of the Afghanistan civil war and known as "Afghans." The highly mobile guerrilla groups had been out of sight since the mid-1980s, halted then by a crackdown and trial.

Some 50 security forces have been killed in sporadic attacks since mid-January when the high state committee took power, replacing President Ghadi Benjedid.

The committee cancelled parliamentary elections which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main fundamentalist party, was sweeping, proclaimed a state of emergency and began a massive crackdown, jailing thousands of fundamentalists.

The supreme court last week confirmed a March 4 ban on the FIS. The movement has denied direct links to armed militants but conceded some may be fundamentalists. Tension has mounted since the start of the trial. Signs calling for holy war against the "impious dictatorship" were seen Monday in Belcourt, an Algiers neighbourhood where "Afghan" sympathisers are known to take refuge.

During the trial, defence lawyers presented Afghani as mentally retarded and manipulated by Islamic groups in Pakistan and Britain. Algerian volunteers to the Afghanistan war often trained in Pakistan. There

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Holy Sepulchre Church reconsecrated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Greek, Armenian and Latin patriarchs of Jerusalem reconsecrated part of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Monday after a mob vandalised an altar in Christianity's main shrine. The black-clad patriarchs righted a large wooden cross pulled from its base on Calvary, the traditional site of Christ's crucifixion, in the attack on Saturday. Watched by Christian leaders, monks and Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein, a Muslim, they also replaced a smashed glass tabernacle containing the Holy Sacrament and prayed for forgiveness. Police arrested a man and woman after the attack but have not been able to identify them. The patriarchs said in a statement they were "shocked and outraged" by the desecration which was unparalleled in recent church history. The fourth century church in Jerusalem's walled Old City is also the traditional site of Christ's tomb. "We, the guardians of the holy places, together with the members of our churches, are gathered here today at this holy shrine, to ask all believers of the world to join us in prayer and acts of reparation at this moment of reconsecration."

King urges all-out effort to upgrade care for children

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened Jordan's first national conference for children by calling for strenuous efforts by all sectors to safeguard children and provide them with protection.

Addressing an audience gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman, King Hussein said that while the national conference is seen by many as a response for a United Nations call to help ensure children's survival, protection and development, Jordan views it as a starting point for a scientific study of the basic needs of the Jordanian child leading to a general strategy on children with plans and projects for the benefit of children to be incorporated in the Kingdom's socio-economic plans. "Jordanian children for whom we seek care and protection will not feel that their goals and objectives in this respect are completed while their brothers and sisters in Palestine, Iraq, and Sudan continue to suffer from illiteracy, sanctions and hunger," the King said.

The national conference, organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, aims at reviewing means of implementing the world declaration and plan of action for children adopted by the World Summit for Children which was orga-

nised by the United Nations in New York in September 1990. Following are major excerpts of the King's address:

"This is a good occasion to greet you and to bless your efforts and endeavours for noble causes. I do not believe there can be a nobler cause than caring for children nor a better objective than ensuring for the young generation a decent life with health care, protection, education... etc. "Jordan views this national conference as a starting point of a scientific study to meet the basic needs of its children leading to the adoption of a general policy on childhood. Therefore, we hope that all national efforts will contribute towards creating a special council on childhood that can seek the fulfilment of all the ideas and the aspirations you aim for."

"Jordan has been keen from the start on providing the best health care, education and social welfare for its children and has gone a long way towards achieving the aspired goals. Indeed, Jordan's success was exemplary, especially as it was achieved in the face of many odds and numerous challenges. "I call on you to step up your efforts in the field of child care but I stress that we are in need of objectivity and clear vision of the objectives and awareness of the country's needs at this stage and in the future."

"I do stress the need to exert more attention to the creation of a stronger personality in our children by instilling in them spiritual, moral and humanitarian values and the sense of national belonging as well as openness to other cultures. "This endeavour requires more coordination among the educational, cultural and informational institutions

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Government, banks review economic development

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker attended a meeting Monday to discuss means of promoting Jordanian banks' role in development and investment projects and expand their contribution towards opening the way for more employment of Jordanian citizens.

Taking part in the discussions at the meeting held at the Guest Palace in Amman were the two deputy prime ministers, as well as the ministers of industry and trade, finance and heads of local banks.

Following the meeting, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi

said in a statement that the meeting discussed CBJ measures designed to control credit facilities with the aim of supporting the ongoing economic process within the framework of the economic restructuring programme. He said that the discussion aimed at coordinating credit-granting procedures with the implementation of the programme with a view to avoiding any inflationary effects that could result from mismanagement of credit.

According to Dr. Nabulsi, the participants in the meeting called further dialogues and similar meetings in a bid to give further impetus to the economic development process in Jordan.

Israeli soldier killed 'mistakenly' in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was shot dead in the occupied West Bank by a Palestinian village leader who thought he was being ambushed by fellow Arabs, the Israeli army reported on Monday.

The army dismissed two officers from their posts for failing to recognise the local leader's home. The village leader was detained for questioning, the army said.

It said an Israeli patrol heard shooting from the direction of a house in Faara refugee camp near Jenin on Sunday night.

The troops did not know the house belonged to the mukhtar and stormed inside. The muk-

tar, thinking he was being attacked by Arabs, opened fire and shot dead Yaacov Shimen, 24, the army said.

Many mukhtars are appointed by Israel and allowed to carry guns because of threats by Palestinians who suspect them of collaborating with the Jewish state.

The army said it captured three armed men in the occupied Gaza Strip early on Monday. It said the men were suspected of killing Palestinians and attacking army patrols.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army's top brass has come out in defence

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The Bani Hamida JORDAN RIVER 1992 Spring Exhibition Extended until Friday 8th of May at the Haj Hassan Estate Abdoun Valley Rd. Hai Nazzal For more information call: 658696 - 658697

Across the line, Afghan guerrillas control the south

TANGI WAKHJIAN, Afghanistan (R) — Between the looted shops and houses of southern Kabul and the green fields beyond, an invisible line divides Afghanistan's new Mujahideen government from a powerful army of fundamentalist rebels.

Just a short stretch of road lined with the debris of war separates the front lines — tank facing tank, fighters armed to the teeth. Uzbek militia of General Rashid Dostum hold the Islamic government's southern perimeter on the edge of Kabul, extracting their price and alienating the city by looting.

Dug in down the road and determined to oust Dostum from the capital is commander Zalmi of the Hezb-i-Islami whose leader, radical fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has refused to join the coalition Mujahideen government.

"We are able to destroy this government, but we do not want to," Mr. Zalmi said, speaking in a mud-walled compound enclosing a garden and protected by a tank at the gate.

A ceasefire to end a week of fighting was possible, Mr. Zalmi said — on condition Mr. Dostum's militia withdraw from Kabul.

Their distrust of Gen. Dostum has some basis. The turnout general joined the Mujahideen only in March, falling out with his paymaster, President Najibullah, who was overthrown in a coup the next month.

A year ago Gen. Dostum's northern Uzbeks inflicted a telling defeat on Mr. Hekmatyar's

forces, driving them from the Tangi Wakhjan gorge about 50 kilometres south of Kabul — a feat Soviet troops failed to accomplish in the 1980s.

Driving along the bomb-cratered road to Tangi Wakhjan, recaptured by the rebels about 10 days ago, Hezb-i-Islami's strength is clearly visible.

Just beyond Mr. Zalmi's outpost are four tanks and an armoured personnel carrier. A little further, two artillery pieces and a multiple rocket launcher on the back of a truck come into view. Heavily armed guerrillas man roadblocks.

Clearly the power of the interim Islamic government that formally took office from the old government last Tuesday does not extend far beyond the southern fringes of Kabul.

The devastation of 14 years of civil war is everywhere.

Every village along the broad and fertile Logar Valley stands in ruins, bombed by the formerly communist government.

Rusting hulks of tanks, lorries and cars lie by the roadside. There is barely anyone to be seen, only the occasional flock of goats and bands of Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels.

An air force jet dropped three bombs as reporters drove past. They exploded harmlessly in deserted fields.

An outpost at Mohammad Ora at the mouth of the narrow Tangi Wakhjan gorge is armed with four batteries of BM-40 rockets and several armoured vehicles.

"We can destroy Kabul totally if we want," one guerrilla said.



An Afghan guerrilla fires his heavy machinegun in downtown Kabul in fighting last week

Abdul Ghaffar, head of Hezb-i-Islami in the area, made it clear they had no quarrel with the Mujahideen government, only with Gen. Dostum's militia.

"A ceasefire is up to them. If they do not leave the city then we are ready to attack them," he said.

So far there was no deadline, he said.

Beyond the gorge and its fast-flowing river, rebels live in the ruins of what was once a fine hospital.

"If the Dostum move out of the capital we have no differences with our Mujahideen brothers. They also fought the communists," said Mohammad Rafie, a mechanic in a vehicle workshop.

Between Kabul and the gorge, reporters saw about 50 tanks and

at least 500 rebels. There were surely many more out of sight and further south in Logar province where Mr. Hekmatyar is presently based.

For the moment, there appears to be a stalemate with neither side having overwhelming superiority.

Apart from an occasional skirmish or exchange of shelling both the Uzbek militia and the Hezb-i-Islami seem content to wait, hoping their political masters can negotiate a way out.

Interim head of state Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, who has scant power base of his own and is thus acceptable to all sides, has said the militia and Mujahideen guerrillas would leave Kabul and be replaced by regular police. He has not said when.

Plans for Silwan settlement announced

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jewish settler group involved in a legal battle over seizure of houses in an Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood announced plans Sunday to build 205 housing units on the edge of the area.

The El Ad movement made the announcement along with an architect commissioned by the Israeli housing ministry to develop plans for the project adjacent to the Silwan area near Jerusalem's walled Old City.

El Ad is one of several groups that have stirred controversy with efforts to buy up Arab-owned properties in Arab East Jerusalem.

The group's spokesman, Yigal Kenna, said it has submitted the housing project to the interior ministry and expected approval within a month.

Mr. Kenna said El Ad wanted to build on the Silwan site because "this was the Jerusalem of the first temple period" of the Bible. However, this could delay the project since it would be built partly on a Jewish archaeological site.

The architect, Saadia Mandel, showed plans for terraced housing on a 30-dunum plot that would be adjacent to and, in some cases, surround Arab-owned homes.

Mr. Mandel refused to discuss financing for the project, but noted he was commissioned by the housing ministry, headed by former General Ariel Sharon, a champion of Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

Kabul women reluctantly take Islamic veil

KABUL (Agencies) — Half of Kabul — the female half — is disappearing from the streets and adopting the Islamic veils that cover them from head to toe.

When their fathers, husbands and brothers were drafted and sent to the battlefield to fight the guerrillas, women became the driving force that powered the bureaucracy of the Soviet-installed government.

The rebels have won the 14-year war against communism. But unlike the ousted regime of President Najibullah, the new Islamic government says it has no place for women.

In the week since rebels took over Kabul, fundamentalist rebels have begun roaming hotels and businesses, removing all pictures of unveiled women on display. Guerrillas in the streets force women to cover their heads, including non-Muslim

women.

They have knocked cigarettes from women's hands and threatened Western male reporters trying to interview female students at Kabul University, where only weeks ago the women walked around in tight blue jeans and T-shirts and pulled their hair back in ponytails.

One British cameraman had some equipment smashed for trying to photograph a group of female students.

Since the rebels' arrival, only a few women have ventured outside their homes and they have covered their heads and wrapped themselves in large shawls. Many don the burka, a veil that billows from cap and has a mesh screen covering the eyes.

Many women say they are wearing veils to avoid a confrontation with the rebels, most of whom come from the conservative countryside.

Some say that they hope the change in wardrobe will pacify the rebels and allow them to keep their jobs and go to school instead of being forced to stay at home.

"If changing our clothes means we will have peace and be allowed to keep doing what we've been doing, then we'll change," said Farida, a 20-year-old secretary at a U.N. office.

President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi's Islamic government has not directly ordered women to cover up, it has said that women should follow the Sharia, the Islamic teachings that say a woman should cover all but her face and hands.

But even the most moderate members of the resistance tend to side with Islamic clerics, who believe that a woman should not hold government office. They say it goes against the tenets of Islam, an argument that most dismiss.

"Women can do anything they want. They can become doctors, lawyers. They can go to school as long as they are properly covered. But they cannot hold office," said Mohammad Iqbal, a cleric at Kabul mosque.

Some of the more headline leaders believe women should not be allowed to vote in the election of a permanent government.

Afghan women have voted since 1964 when they elected four women to parliament.

Meanwhile, the price of burkas has nearly tripled, rising from 6,000 to 15,000 afghanis (\$10 to \$30).

Boutiques that sold skirts and Western-style dresses have locked their doors and moved the clothes out of display windows. The owners say they have no plans to reopen.

Female newscasters, who had worn their hair neatly coiffed, now wear the Iranian-style hoods that show only their faces.

The few women who still show up for work in government offices have traded business suits and high-heeled pumps for the baggy trousers and tunics worn in Pakistan, an Islamic neighbour. They covered their heads with shawls that draped over their shoulders.

Afghan Mujahideen have also closed the bar at Kabul's top hotel.

The Jamiat-i-Islami group of new Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood ordered the International Hotel to stop selling alcohol, hotel staff said. The group has controlled the area around the hotel since Kabul fell.

The management had argued that only foreigners used the hotel because at \$100 a night it was too expensive for locals.

Female newscasters, who had worn their hair neatly coiffed, now wear the Iranian-style hoods that show only their faces.

The few women who still show up for work in government offices have traded business suits and high-heeled pumps for the baggy trousers and tunics worn in Pakistan, an Islamic neighbour. They covered their heads with shawls that draped over their shoulders.

Afghan Mujahideen have also closed the bar at Kabul's top hotel.

The Jamiat-i-Islami group of new Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood ordered the International Hotel to stop selling alcohol, hotel staff said. The group has controlled the area around the hotel since Kabul fell.

The management had argued that only foreigners used the hotel because at \$100 a night it was too expensive for locals.

Likud campaign portrays Shamir as peacemaker

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ruling Likud Party, launching its reelection campaign, is portraying leader Yitzhak Shamir as a stubborn negotiator who will negotiate the best peace deal with the Arabs.

Mr. Shamir, prime minister for most of the past nine years, promised cheering party supporters on Sunday to make peace while never ceding Israeli-occupied lands where 1.75 million Palestinians are struggling for independence.

In rousing speeches, hard-line Likud politicians portrayed their main rival, Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, as either a cheap imitator of himself or the head of a left wing likely to endanger Israeli security by exchanging land for peace.

Opinion polls show Mr. Rabin, a former army chief who takes a tough stance on Palestinian unrest but offers territorial concessions for peace, is expected to mount the strongest challenge to Likud for 15 years in the June 23 election.

Deputy Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Likud darling and spokesman for Israel at U.S.-brokered peace talks, told the crowd only Likud knew when to tell the Arabs no.

Campaign films show Mr. Shamir and Likud's founder, the late Menachem Begin, as peacemakers.

Thousands of supporters clapped to a pulsating theme song which listed as Likud accomplishments the launching of Arab-Israeli peace talks, the arrival of 400,000



Yitzhak Shamir

Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union and the expansion of Jewish settle-

ment in the occupied lands. The films made no mention of a steady decline in relations with Israel's guardian U.S. ally or a big drop in the number of immigrants caused by the country's failure to offer them jobs.

Mr. Shamir promised that a few more years of Likud rule would ensure a Palestinian state never emerged in the occupied lands where hundreds of thousands of Jews would soon be settling.

"A few more years of Likud rule — and there will be no more talk of the possibility of a Palestinian state. It will be completely unrealistic," said Mr. Shamir, 76.

About 110,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories. The United States calls them an obstacle to peace but Mr. Shamir says they ensure

Israel's "security."

In the films Mr. Begin was pictured signing Israel's peace treaty with Egypt as prime minister in 1979.

Mr. Shamir was shown at the Madrid conference launching the peace talks last October when he became the first Israeli leader to address delegates representing Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

A power struggle between Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy which last month threatened to tear Likud party was brushed aside.

Mr. Levy, in Lagos to restore relations severed by Nigeria 19 years ago, was cheered for a letter he sent to the rally halting the forging of ties with 32 countries in two years.

U.S. firms vying to sell Israel warplanes

TEL AVIV (R) — McDonnell Douglas Corp has sent a senior executive to Israel to lobby for the F-18 as Israel's next frontline warplane and counter the Jewish state's tentative agreement to assemble F-16s developed by General Dynamics Corp. John Capellupo, president of McDonnell Douglas's combat aircraft division, was holding talks with air force and defence officials. The deal at stake will be worth about \$1 billion, Israeli defence sources said. The Israeli air force is expected to choose one of the two multi-role fighters later this year and the initial order will probably be for 60 aircraft. Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) has reported progress in talks with both U.S. companies on assembling the planes in Israel for the first time if their fighter is chosen. General Dynamics Chairman William Anders visited Israel last month and reached agreement in principle with IAI on assembling the F-16s, company spokesman Monte Jeffrey said. Israel already has more than 100 F-16s but no F-18s, which are larger and more expensive. Israel receives more than \$1.8 billion a year in U.S. military grants, most of which is earmarked for arms purchases from U.S. manufacturers.

Tehran holds annual book fair

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated the fifth Tehran International Book Fair on Monday, with publishers from more than 30 countries participating. Mr. Rafsanjani said the exhibition, to run through May 15, would improve Iran's culture and strengthen the basis of the nation's Islamic revolution, Tehran Radio reported. "This fair aims at creating connections among different publishers and preparing grounds for researchers and scholars, students and teachers to be informed of the latest scientific achievements in the world, as well as to urge people to read books," the president was quoted as saying. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said 565 foreign publishers from 33 countries with 47,000 book titles and 900 scientific publications are participating. The event also includes about 430 Iranian publishing companies and 65 children's books publishers with more than 17,600 titles, the radio said. German publishers were barred to protest a ban on Iranians at the 1991 Frankfurt book fair because of the Iranian death edict against British author Salman Rushdie.

Muslim leader: Rushdie sentence should deter others

LONDON (AP) — The death sentence against Author Salman Rushdie should deter other writers tempted to abuse Islam, the leader of a British Muslim group said Sunday. Kalim Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain, said Muslims must obey British laws, and civil disobedience was not an option. At the group's inaugural session in January, Mr. Siddiqui had called on Britain's two million Muslims to defy any laws they considered hostile. The organisation, a self-appointed body with no legal powers, reaffirmed its support for the fatwa, or decree of death. "The fatwa and our presence in this country will keep Rushdie pinned down in his bunker for the rest of his life," Mr. Siddiqui said Sunday. "Keeping Rushdie in his rabbit hole is victory enough for us and our future generation." He said the fatwa "will be deemed to apply to anyone who ignores the line that has been drawn by us on the sands of history."

The 155-member assembly is the brainchild of the pro-Iranian Muslim Institute, which is headed by Mr. Siddiqui. Organisers said the body is designed to represent a broad consensus among British Muslims, but moderates say it is unrepresentative. Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding since February 1989, when Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill the Indian-born writer for allegedly blaspheming in his book "The Satanic Verses." Although Ayatollah Khomeini died less than four months later, the threat of assassination has kept Mr. Rushdie in hiding except for rare public appearances.

Iran to attend summit in Turkmenistan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will attend a summit of Central Asian countries to be held in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat on May 10, Tehran Radio said. Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani met Turkmen Vice-President Ata Charyev in Tehran on Sunday and accepted an invitation to the summit, it said. "The heads of all Central Asian republics attach importance to Iran's presence at the summit and are eager to make use of Iran's invaluable experience on various international issues," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Charyev as saying. Iran has moved quickly to expand trade and political ties with the former Soviet republics in Central Asia.

Ozal recovering from prostate surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — Turkey's President Turgut Ozal was in good condition and able to take a short walk Sunday, a day after having surgery to remove his prostate gland, a hospital spokesman said. Mr. Ozal, 64, was expected to stay about a week at the Methodist Hospital, where Saturday's surgery was performed. "He was up walking around the halls" hospital spokesman Russell Johnson said Sunday. A malignant tumour was found in Mr. Ozal's prostate gland during tests at Methodist April 22. The tumour was believed to be localised to the prostate, said Dr. Peter Scardino, Mr. Ozal's surgeon. However, pathologists were analysing the tissue to determine whether Mr. Ozal will require additional cancer treatment. Results were expected within a week.

Khamenei meets with Hizbollah leader

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla fighters Monday to mobilise fully to fight Israel, the Islamic Republic News Agency said. The agency said Ayatollah Khamenei, who replaced the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as Iran's supreme spiritual leader, met in Tehran with Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general, and other officials of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah. Hizbollah leads guerrilla warfare in South Lebanon against Israeli army forces and the affiliated South Lebanon Army militia, which patrol Israel's so-called "security zone." The news agency said Ayatollah Khamenei praised the guerrilla leaders for their "firm resolve." He told them that if the United States was able to eliminate Hizbollah it would have done so.

Israel TV bows to Likud pressure

TEL AVIV (R) — State-owned Israel Television bowed to government pressure on Monday and dropped from prime time viewing an investigative programme ahead of next month's election.

The programme angered Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party by highlighting what it called corruption in the housing ministry of Ariel Sharon and the cold-blooded killing of Palestinians by undercover army units.

The broadcasting authority's government-appointed board voted 16-14 in favour of moving the programme "Weekly Magazine" from its Friday evening slot — which could slash its audience by half, a television spokeswoman said.

The 14 opponents said they would appeal to the education minister who oversees the broadcasting authority.

Ministers charged at a cabinet meeting on Sunday that the programme was designed to sabotage Likud's chances of fending off a strong Labour Party challenge in the June 23 general election.

Opposition parties accused Mr. Shamir of blatant intimidation and manipulation of the media. Mr. Sharon and the army have denied the charges levelled in the programme. Ministers called for "order" to be restored at the television after the reports.

"Weekly Magazine" would be shown on Thursday or Saturday nights, cutting its normal audience of 1.7 million by half. Many Israelis watch television on the Friday Jewish Sabbath when most other entertainment is closed.

"It's a purely political decision because there is a captive audience on Friday. The politicians, especially those in power now, are unhappy the audience sees what they do not want it to see," said Moti Kirshenbaum, a veteran political reporter.

Another senior reporter, speaking on condition of anonymity said: "This is a blow to freedom of expression. Its repulsive interference in the work of journalists performing objective reports. We did nothing unethical."

"It is too bad they stuck TV into their political schemes. We will not shut up. We will appeal," he told Reuters.

The television spokeswoman said journalists did not take part in the vote. "They observed the (board) meeting," she said.

Television sources said the board's vice-chairman had urged members to suspend the programme until after the election as Mr. Shamir wanted.

"It is a frightening attempt to hide the government's corruption from the public," said Amnon Rubinstein, member of parliament for the opposition left-centre Shinui Party.

"It is not a coincidence this decision comes after the wide coverage about the state comptroller's report that opened a Pandora's box to the Likud government's corruption," he said.

The programme concentrated on a report last month by the state comptroller, a government watchdog, which singled out Mr. Sharon's powerful ministry for criticism.

Cabinet ministers voiced anger at Sunday's cabinet meeting and Yossi Alhimer, chief Likud campaign spokesman, told Reuters: "I found out many journalists are in a battle against Likud. It is state television and it must be balanced."

A reporter who spoke on condition he not be identified said: "The weekly magazine is an example of serious journalism. They are panicking because Likud is on the decline. They're scared. The television is the easy scapegoat."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Bowling
18:05	Les Tortues Ninja
18:30	Marc et Sophie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:20	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Princesses
21:10	Rich Tea and Sympathy
22:00	News in English
22:30	Over the Hills "Roman Holiday"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:22	Fajr
05:47	Dhuhr
12:33	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:19	Maghreb
20:44	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlah, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675091	
WEATHER	
Bullens supplied by the Department of Meteorology:	
Slight drop in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northerly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly fresh and seas wavy.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	13 / 24
Aqaba	19 / 33
Deserts	14 / 29

JORDAN VALLEY	
18 / 32	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi	778959
Dr. Mahmoud Amerah	888883
Dr. Khalil Bida	755292
Dr. Abbas Al Hakem	891256
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778236
Al Asana pharmacy	637053
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shmouni pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	890390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	699131
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Khazim Maternity, J. Amn.	644412
Abul Amman Maternity	642362
Mathia, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmouni	664171/4
Shmouni Hospital	669131
University Hospital	842045
Al-Musader Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abadi	666127/57
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International	

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ

Jordanians protest U.N. sanctions against Libya

AMMAN (AP) — About 50 prominent political activists staged a silent demonstration Monday protesting U.N. sanctions against Libya.

The protesters marched about 30 metres from the Professional Associations offices in suburban Amman to U.N. Headquarters, where they presented a statement addressed to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

The marchers were mainly Islamists and parliamentarians who waved banners calling for the immediate lifting of the sanctions.

"No to the U.N. double standard approach," read one of the banners.

Most Arabs believe the United Nations should apply equal pressure to Israel to enforce U.N. resolutions on Israeli occupation of Arab land.

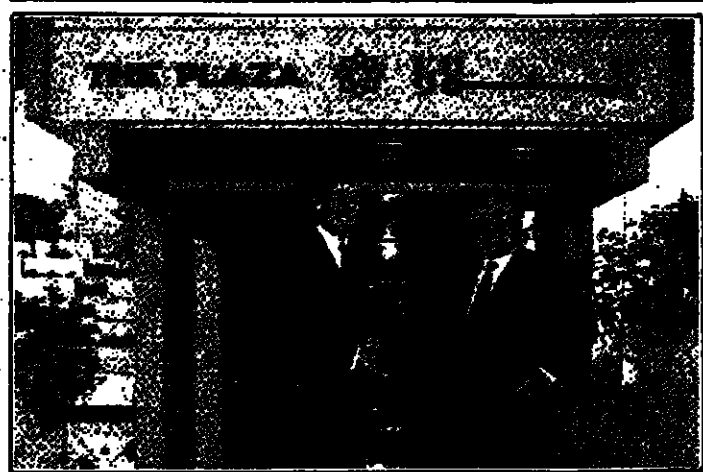
Just two police patrols troled behind the marchers until they arrived at the U.N. offices. The statement to Mr. Boutros Ghali said.

"We wish to voice our strong objection to the U.N. becoming a tool in the hands of the United States, Britain and France... under an illusionary cover of international legitimacy."

The protest was sponsored by a group called the Central Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of Libya, which comprises a few dozen Muslim religious figures who insist Libya is the target of a Western plot to weaken the Arabs.

It was formed five months ago in the midst of confrontation between Libya and the West over the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

The U.N. sanctions include a ban on arms sales, a halt in air links and a reduction of the staff in Libyan diplomatic missions. They took effect April 15, when Libya failed to hand over two suspects implicated in the affair.



General Manager of the Amman Plaza Hotel Louis Caviezel (right), greets his new replacement Charles Barker, previously general manager of the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel in Oman.

Amman Plaza Hotel's general manager headed for Malta

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After 10 years of service in Jordan, the general manager of the Amman Plaza Hotel will leave the country Wednesday and head for Malta, where he will open a five-star deluxe hotel.

Swiss-born, Louis Caviezel, who joined the project to build the hotel in Amman in 1982, has witnessed 10 years of "growth and progress" of the hotel, which he refers to as "my baby," and of the whole country.

His successor is Charles Barker, previously general manager at the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel in Oman.

Mr. Caviezel, who was serving in Bermuda at the end of his tour of duty was offered three new projects in Frankfurt, in New York and in Jordan. "I took up the post here before even seeing the country," he said.

Because of delays, the hotel was opened on Jan. 1, 1987.

"When I came to Jordan, I realised — and it had been the purpose of our company (Forte Hotels) — that when we operate a hotel in a foreign country we must identify with the country in which we operate," he said.

Although at the beginning the financial controller, personnel manager and the chef were not Jordanians, Mr. Caviezel pointed out that the management had sought to employ mostly Jordanian people.

"Now the hotel enjoys a full Jordanian staff, apart from one Filipino and the general manager," he said.

Projecting the future of Jordan, for which Mr. Caviezel has developed a great fondness, he says there could be an explosion of tourists within two to three years if there is "a possibility for a semblance of peace."

"Tourists take to Jordan like ducks to water, but the Kingdom must prepare itself to be master of its own future."

Jordan, he explained, could be touristically successful, largely because of its rich historical culture and its modernisation and progress. "You have 5000 years of culture mixed with the most modern gimmicks. Fifty kilometres outside Amman and one goes back to the Biblical times."

When Mr. Caviezel first visited Jordan, in 1982, he remembers that there were no large buildings. Shmeisani was half built, the airport which used to be in Marka was small and most houses consisted of one floor with metal rods sticking out from the top, ready to have the next floor built the following year. "I think Jordan in the last 10 years has had a tremendous drive... in a decade, it has progressed as much as 30 years."

But what Jordan needs is to be able to market itself, to go to people and promote it because it is a natural tourist country, Mr. Caviezel said.

King receives Iranian envoy at Royal Court

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday Ayatollah Taskhiri who is currently leading an Iranian religious delegation on a visit to Jordan.

Sheikh Taskhiri conveyed to the King greetings from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and exchanged views about Iranian-Jordanian relations as well as developments at the regional and international levels.

Present at the audience were Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Karaki, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Tamimi and the Iranian delegation, as well as the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Sheikh Taskhiri earlier held talks with Sheikh Tamimi over religious affairs and the situation in Arab Jerusalem and the holy places there. The Jordanian minister presented a briefing on the Kingdom's efforts to preserve and restore the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock through a specialised religious committee under the King's directives. The Jordanian government has been providing for the restoration of the holy sites since 1952, said the minister.

Sheikh Taskhiri voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts with regard to the holy places in Arab Jerusalem. He said that Iran hopes to help support Jordan's effort in this respect and in safeguarding the holy places in Jerusalem. Sheikh Taskhiri earlier visited the Al Bait Foundation and met with Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayat, its deputy chairman, who presented a briefing on the foundation's activities.

Also Monday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Ayatollah Taskhiri and his accompanying delegation.

The Crown Prince stressed the importance of the historical relations between the two countries and criticised the new world order, which "lacks the moral perspective in dealing with things."

Prince Hassan also lashed out at divisions "imposed on the region from outside."

Indulge in French culture: Attend 'French Week' events

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre, in cooperation with Air France, has organised a "French Week" which will begin on Saturday May 9, with a gala dinner under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

During this week, many facets of French culture will be presented to the Jordanian society.

At a press conference held at the Inter-Continental Hotel, French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard said this event is not only intended to introduce the French culture to Jordanians but is aimed at enhancing and strengthening relations between the two countries.

"France has always been keen in strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries especially in the fields of culture, art, tourism and education," Mr. Bauchard said.

Following the opening gala dinner on Saturday, many events will take place, most notably a fashion show featuring "le pret-a-porter" spring line (le printemps) of many designers including Courreges, Louis Feraud, Guy Laroche and Kenzo. Eight French models will model the clothes on two consecutive days; on Saturday during the gala dinner and Sunday during a tea party around the Inter-Continental pool.

Other events include a photo exhibition of two French photographers, Bernard Guillot and Jean-Philippe Reverdot. The photographers will exhibit pictures they took during their stay in Jordan.

There will also be an animated cartoon exhibition featuring the works of a range of French cartoonists reflecting their ideas and concepts of their homeland, France, and techniques they employ in publishing their works.

And, of course, one must not forget French cuisine. During this week, the hotel will have French food for the delicate palate of any gourmand, accompanied by the music of French jazz pianist Philippe Carment.

The press conference was attended by Shawqi Ayyoub, general manager of the Inter-Continental Hotel, Jean-Claude Rouyer, representative of the regional office of Air France, and Noel Favreliere, director of the French Cultural Centre.



A three-day symposium on reducing the consumption of energy in the industrial sector is being held under the direction of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Ministry ready to cooperate with industries on energy consumption

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Monday opened a three-day symposium on reducing the consumption of energy in the industrial sector and announced that it is ready to cooperate with the energy consumers in industry to study means for better and more efficient use of energy in various industrial sectors.

"The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources realises that the Kingdom should shoulder a major burden through importing energy resources, mainly oil products, and is striving by all means to reduce the oil bill that has been increasing every year with the growth of industry in Jordan," said the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saad Hayel Surour in an address to the opening session at the University of Jordan.

Mr. Surour said that Jordan has been importing more and oil products to meet its growing needs for energy and has at the same time exploited its limited natural gas to help reduce its dependence on imports. But, he noted, the Ministry of Energy has been giving due attention to guidance to the public in means of rationalising energy consumption and at the same time, intensifying exploration of oil through the help of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). He said that the ministry is also giving due attention to alternative sources of energy through continued research work and aims to spread awareness among the public about the need to cut down on energy consumption in every possible way.

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah addressed the meeting, organised in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Industrial Development Bank and the Amman Chamber of Industry, and said that JEA was



The symposium, which is attended by representatives of various industries and the public sector, is due to review 20 research papers dealing with energy consumption in industrial businesses.

Education minister denies report of 4,000 retirements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Education officials Monday denied a report in Al Dustour daily newspaper that thousands of men and women teachers will be retired as of July 1992.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thaqan Hindawi as saying that "reports in the local press about the Ministry of Education's intention to retire 4,000 teachers was untrue as retiring officials normally follow certain regulations and ministry procedures."

The daily said Monday that the Ministry of Education will retire 4,000 teachers by July 1, particularly those who have completed 30 years of service with the ministry.

The daily said that by July 1, 4,000 teachers will be retired and that four assistants to the Ministry of Education's secretary general will also be referred to pension.

The report said the move was to "reactivate the role of the Ministry of Education in implementing the 1987 National Educational Conference resolutions on the one hand, and to find work for more people in a bid to deal with the unemployment question in Jordan on the other."

According to Mr. Hindawi, there was also "no truth in reports about the transfer of ministry officials," noting that any appointment and retirement decisions normally follow thorough study of the ministry's needs and requirements of the educational development process.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ### EXHIBITIONS
- ★ Exhibition of seven artists from the occupied territories — Tayseer Barakat, Sulaiman Mansour, Nabih Anani, Vera Tamari, Jawad Al Malhi, Ya'qoub Al Kurd and Khalil Rahab — at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of sculpture by Iraqi artists Jalal Al Zahawi and Amal Al Hishni at Rakeena Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
 - ★ Spelling exhibition of Hani Hamada and the Jordan River designs at the Haj Hassan Estate, Abdona Valley Road.
 - ★ Photography exhibition, entitled "Around the World: People and Things," by Jacqueline Vanderveke at the British Council.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Amer Al Obaidi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ### LECTURE
- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Arab Nation Between the Miserable Reality and the Logic of Living History" by Dr. Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REQUIRED

The ideal candidate would have had 5 years of experience working in a prestigious international or national organisation, a command of written and spoken 'English' English at native speaker level, and would be a Jordanian national, willing and able to work long and, at times, anti-social hours, and free to travel.

This is a long term post in which the successful candidate will receive generous remuneration in accordance with experience and qualifications.

In the first instance, please send your c.v. to P.O.Box 5036, Amman, together with a handwritten application in English.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Potash Production Expansion

I.F.B. No. 30-4857-65-17

Advertisement

for The Supply of Electro-Centres

The Arab Potash Company Limited (APC) of Amman, Jordan plans to expand production capacity by 400,000 tonnes per year. The facilities will be located on a site adjoining the existing refinery near Safi, on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 200km north of the port of Aqaba. The Arab Potash Company invites suppliers, interested in tendering for above I.F.B., to apply for tender documents to APC or Jacobs at the address shown below from which they can obtain the tender documents. The cost for each tender copy is \$40- non-refundable.

1. Mr. Issa Gammoh,
Projects Manager,
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.,
P.O.Box 1470,
Amman - Jordan

2. Mr. Norman Camler,
Jacobs International Inc.,
Merrion House,
Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, - Ireland

Fax No.: 962-3-377125/Site.
Fax No.: 962-6-674416/Amman H.O.
Telex No.: 21683 Potash JO.
Tel. No.: 666165/6- Amman
665116 or 93-377121-Site

Fax No.: 353-1-2695497
Telex No.: 30295 JCBS-EI
Tel. No.: 353-1-2695686

The supply includes four (4) Nos of prefabricated outdoor electro-centres complete with switchgear, lighting, general service sockets and air conditioning.

The closing date for submission of tenders will be 12:00 noon, June 18, 1992.

Suppliers who fail to have their bid security in place on or before the bid due date, will not be considered.

A.Y. Ensour,
Managing Director,
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.,

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet to form environmental delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Monday to form Jordan's delegation which will participate in an international conference on the environment due to open June 1 in Brazil. The delegation will be headed by Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat and will include the following as members: the director of the International Organisations and Conferences at the Foreign Ministry, the director general of the Meteorology Department, the director of the Environment Department and representatives of the Ministries of Planning and Water, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Complaints Department releases figures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Governorate Complaints Department dealt with 4,736 cases last year, Amman Governor Issa Al Omari said Monday. Mr. Omari said the Security Affairs Department of the governorate had dealt with a total of 2,711 cases, of which 672 were related to expelling foreigners because of various reasons.

Jordan takes part in Moroccan conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting of the Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture, which will be held in Rabat, Morocco, this week under the motto "the future of Arab economy in the light of international changes." Intellectuals from various countries of the world will deliver lectures on various aspects of the topic at the conference. Director of Jordan's Industrial Development Bank (IDB) Taher Kanaan will deliver a lecture on the role of Arab governments in the Arab economic integration process.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Israel and espionage: List grows by one

ISRAEL HAS just added to its list of honours the title of "engagement in industrial and commercial espionage" against its first ally and friend the U.S. This information has been confirmed by the U.S. Congress' General Accounting Office in a testimony presented last week to a congressional sub-committee.

Perhaps this revelation in itself would not be sufficient to hurt Israel's standing with Washington, since some 20 other countries are included in the U.S. list, but once it is added to earlier information about Israel's conducting espionage on U.S. military know-how and transfer of weapon technology, then a new picture emerges of Israel's credibility and reliability as a strategic ally of the U.S.

When such kind of clandestine activities being conducted by Israeli agents against American military and economic state-of-the-art technologies are viewed against the backdrop of massive U.S. aid to Israel, the emerging picture becomes one that warrants immediate concern. The phenomenal American aid to each and every Israeli citizen has been verified and corroborated as having reached the figure of \$15,000 to \$20,000. Most of this aid consists of grants and so-called loans which are more often than not forgotten and forgiven. No small wonder then that U.S. President George Bush was more than reluctant to grant Israel the requested \$10 billion in loan guarantees which could have been easily used to finance new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

At a time when the U.S. economy continues to suffer from a deep recession that is causing the kind of riots and disruptions that have occurred recently in Los Angeles and other major U.S. cities, it is not surprising to see that more and more Americans are growing opposed to the continuation of this seemingly open ended U.S. financial, economic and military commitment to Israel. No doubt also the upheavals that hit so many American cities last week, because of dire neglect and abject poverty and unemployment, will accelerate this soaring rejection of bottomless aid packages to Israel. This will most likely be the case particularly because in the wake of the collapse of the communist danger and the ushering in of a new West-dominated international order, the strategic position of Israel has declined considerably and in proportion to the decline of the communist order across the world. And as Americans become more and more evenhanded on Israel and begin to treat it as it should, the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East are bound to grow substantially. In the process of all such changes in U.S. perspectives towards Israel, the likelihood of forging even stronger and more durable Arab-U.S. relations can also be expected to reach new heights. Is there a better time and occasion then for Americans to air out their views on such a crucial issue than during the upcoming presidential contest when everybody will be clamouring to put America first?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

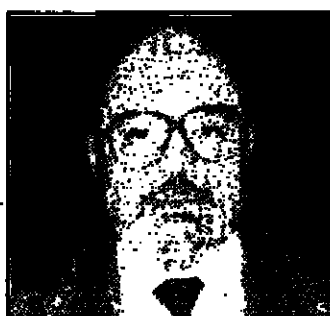
AL RAI Arabic daily Monday launched a bitter attack on the United States for practising racism against its own people, noting that if the Soviet Union collapsed because of 100 reasons, there are many hundreds of reasons for the coming downfall of the United States as a nation. The American society is plagued by AIDS, immorality and homelessness and, above all, its white men and women are being oriented against the black men and women in a self-destructive manner, said the daily. The United States is the only nation among world nations where half colonises and rules the other half and where the white half despises the black half and white people strive to lay their hands on everything giving nothing to the blacks, the paper said. It said that the American white people can have all the rights and shoulder little duty while the blacks have duties but few rights and are being forced to fight American wars against other nations. The paper said that apart from being hailed as heroes of the United States for winning gold medals, the black athletes are despised by their American countrymen in all other aspects of life. The blacks, who took to the streets more than three decades ago demanding human rights and bread are out in the streets again demanding houses, bread, security and human rights, said the paper. It said that the American society abounds with crime and criminals and is plagued by all kinds of diseases that can bring down a nation. What is going on in the United States is an unleash of the deep hatred of the down-trodden people against their tormentors and perhaps this is the beginning of the end for this empire which is rife with evil, crime and murder.

AS EXPECTED, the fifth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington has ended in total failure, with the two sides achieving no progress in finding a peaceful formula to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said that failure of the negotiations is mainly due to Israel's obstinacy and its intransigent position, on the one hand, and the attitude of the co-sponsors of the talks which have so far refrained from any interference to force the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace and the international legitimacy, on the other. Both the American and Israeli spokesmen have falsely announced that the talks have achieved some progress while everyone realises the fact that nothing has been achieved at all, it said. Both the American and Israeli officials have their reasons to spread lies at this stage when they are involved in elections at home, but the Arabs have no interest in telling lies and have openly announced otherwise, noted the paper. The Shamir government has no doubt sent its delegation to Washington in a bid to win more credibility at home for the coming elections while the present U.S. administration has abstained from announcing the truth about this failure lest it would adversely affect the course of the presidential elections, the paper added. Thus, the paper said, the Arabs are facing a concerted American-Israeli propaganda campaign claiming that progress in the peace process has been achieved and, therefore, we believe that further negotiations with the Israelis, before their parliamentary elections, will be fruitless and counterproductive, the paper said.

The new Islamic front: Why it has been formed and what it aims at

By Ziad Abu Ghanimeh

The writer is a leading figure of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. This is a translation of an article he wrote and published in the Al Dustour Arabic daily of May 3.



Ziad Abu Ghanimeh

The news item carried by the Arabic daily Al Dustour about the imminent launch of the "Islamic Work Front" has drawn diverse reactions from the Jordanian political spectrum.

Some showed a malicious delight at the establishment of this front, thinking that it signals a split and division in the circles of the Muslim Brotherhood group. Others cheered upon hearing the news, thinking that the front will replace the Muslim Brotherhood group, while an additional group cast doubt and suspicion on the front, describing it as a new political heresy, created by the Muslim Brotherhood group to serve as a political weapon, which the movement will use to support its political presence.

Others, however, said the establishment of the front was a "trick" by the Muslim Brotherhood group to prevent other Islamists from emerging on the political scene, thus preparing the political stage for them to monopolise the Islamic political scene. These statements about the Islamic Work Front have been and are still circulating.

I tend to believe that all such reactions do not do justice to the front nor to the Muslim Brotherhood, and are far from truth.

I found it a duty, as a committed member of the Muslim Brotherhood and as a member of the Constituent Assembly of the Islamic Work Front, to state the following facts to cor-

rect the statements on the front and to present the real picture of the front.

I take the liberty to first stress the following basic principles which the Muslim Brotherhood follows when dealing with their Muslim brothers on the political and non-political Islamic fronts. We, the Muslim Brotherhood, honestly reaffirm that we are a Muslim group, but not the only Muslim group, and therefore, we open our hearts to any group or party, to any intellectual or an Islamic advocate who carries the banner of Islam and works for Islam.

We also believe that the load of Islamic work is so heavy that it requires mobilisation of efforts of all the Muslim Brotherhood members, as well as those of other Islamists, irrespective of their stand.

We believe that the Islamic forum is so spacious that it can accommodate the Muslim Brotherhood and their Muslim brothers who work for Islam.

These principled stands are not mere slogans upheld by us, nor are they mere allegations aimed at appealing people, but rather a basic component of our approach, and a major item on our agenda. The group has always reiterated these principled stands to all its members, and has always committed itself to follow them when dealing with other Islamists working in the Islamic forum. I remember having read an internal circular, issued several years ago, stressing these principled stands

and requesting every Muslim brother to consider any Muslim working for Islam, irrespective of his political affiliation, as his brother, to love him and, cooperate with him. I will not be disclosing a secret if I say that the Muslim Brotherhood has never spared any effort to translate these principles into reality and that it has formed special committees and requested them to contact all the Islamists working for Islam in the Jordanian forum, be they members of parties, groups or individuals. This step was aimed at intensifying efforts, unifying the Islamic fold and adopting unified stands towards specific questions of interest to Islamists and Islam.

I will not be disclosing a secret if I mention that the Muslim Brotherhood, based on these firm principles, has participated enthusiastically in a coordination committee, grouping representatives of most of the Islamic groups in Jordan, to ensure the greatest degree of Islamic unity in the election process that brought to the Parliament the present members of the Lower House of Parliament. The committee achieved some progress, but it was not the success that all the

sincere and faithful people wanted.

By mentioning the above things, I meant to come to the conclusion that the Muslim Brotherhood believes in the need to mobilise the efforts of all those working for Islam in a balanced equilibrium, to unite their ranks and ensure a greater fraternal cooperation.

It is from this departing point that the idea of forming an Islamic Work Front has emerged, as a practical translation of a balanced relationship trying all the honest and dedicated people at the Islamic forum, be they members of the Muslim Brotherhood or not.

I can not claim, nor can anybody else, that the Islamic forum is free from disputes and differences. I can not claim, nor can anybody else, that the formation of this front will end these differences and disputes; but I can firmly say that the front will overcome these differences and disputes and will address them in line with the golden rule that the late Imam Hassan Al Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood group, had drawn up. The rule says "We cooperate in all areas of agreement and find excuse for each other on issues, which we differ on."

I tend to believe that the founders of the front are fully aware of the fact that those who are waiting for the Islamists to clash will not be pleased to see the Islamists united. They will insist on maintaining, and enhancing the current state of division within the Islamic front. They will start, if they have not already, to incite other Islamists against the brotherhood, by claiming that the brotherhood will monopol-

ise the front. They will then instigate the Muslim Brotherhood against other Islamists, by claiming that the front will be an alternative for the Muslim Brotherhood and will pull the carpet from underneath their feet. They will also raise doubts, spread rumours and continue to exert all efforts to abort the front.

It is hoped that the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists will ignore all such rumours and claims in order to abort the attempts by ill-intentioned people to split the Islamic rank.

I voice hope that the Islamists will be convinced that the Islamic Work Front is a cooperation formula which the Muslim Brotherhood will not use to monopolise the political front nor will the Islamists want to use as a Trojan horse to invade the Muslim Brotherhood group. The Muslim Brotherhood should consider the front as a supporter rather than a competitor. Other Islamists should also consider the Muslim Brotherhood as a supporter for the front.

I am sure founders of the front realise that many political powers in the Jordanian forum raise doubts about the formation of the front. Moreover, I heard that some of these powers have translated their concern into action to counter the activities of the front.

Therefore, I believe that the first thing the front should do is to assure those who doubt that their doubts are not founded, neither are they justifiable. They have to be assured that the front is concerned about the genuine national unity among all citizens. I hope the front will learn

from the Muslim Brotherhood's experience, which has dealt with all national powers on issues of common concern.

I hope that political powers who fear that Islamists, be they members of the Muslim Brotherhood or otherwise, will realise that the national work scene can accommodate the activities of all powers, just as the Islamic work scene had been spacious enough to accommodate the activities of all Islamists.

It is hoped that such powers realise that the national work scene is a competition field for serving citizens and has never been a scene for fighting between Islamists, nationalists and Arabists.

It is our earnest hope that they all realise the fact that their only enemy is the Jewish entity, who is still occupying our land, evicting our people and violating our holy places, and its allies, headed by the United States of America.

Finally, I would say it frankly and without fear, as a member of the Muslim Brotherhood group, that I do not mind if the Islamic Work Front becomes an alternative for the Muslim Brotherhood. The Islamic Brotherhood is so deeply-rooted, that it cannot be easily uprooted.

I, as founding member of the Islamic Work Front, will say without any fear that I do not mind if the Muslim Brotherhood group controls the front or monopolises it. The front is a clean arena which has enough room for all the dedicated people whose genuine interest is to serve Islam and the Muslims and to serve this country and its citizens in the spirit of brotherly cooperation.

Riots reveal America's deepening racial divide

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The experts' finding was gloomy and unambiguous. "Our nation is moving towards two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

That was in 1968, after an explosion of racial violence across the United States which forced the government to order troops into riot-shattered cities and prompted a flurry of projects to bridge the gap between white and black Americans.

This week, huge riots which turned parts of Los Angeles into war zones served as a grim reminder that race relations have improved little since the so-called Kerner Commission studied an explosion of racial violence in 23 cities in the mid-1960s.

The Los Angeles riots flared after a jury in a predominantly white suburb acquitted four white police officers on trial for savagely beating a black motorist.

Millions of television viewers saw a videotape of the incident, filmed surreptitiously by an amateur, which showed bellowing policemen raining blows and kicks on the black man, Rodney King, as he cowered on the ground.

Within hours of the verdict, crowds of angry blacks took to the streets of poor areas in Los Angeles, venting their anger over what they saw as yet another sign of white racism.

In the ensuing orgy of arson and looting, 44 people died and hundreds of buildings went up in flames. As it had in the 1960s, the federal government in Washington ordered thousands of combat troops into action to restore order.

President George Bush said in a television address that once peace was restored "we must build a future where, in every city across this country, empty rage gives way to hope, where poverty and despair give way to opportunity."

The United States, he said, must again turn to "the underlying causes of such tragic events."

If recent history is a guide, little will be done to address these causes. In 1968, the Kerner Commission singled out unemployment and poverty as chief reasons for the growing rift between whites and blacks.

Unless action was taken, the commission predicted, there would be a white America in the suburbs and a black America in urban ghettos. Census figures show that this prognosis proved correct.

The huge gap between blacks and whites is highlighted by other statistics: The unemployment rate for blacks is roughly twice as high as for whites. Almost 45 per cent of black children live below the poverty line compared with 16 per cent of white children.

Last not least: There are more young black men in prison than in

college. While blacks account for 12 per cent of the population, they make up 45 per cent of prison inmates.

That disproportionate crime rate, some experts say, is one reason why police officers and the courts tend to treat black suspects more harshly than whites — a tendency which adds to black-white friction.

Last year, a commission set up to study discrimination in New York state courts found that "there are two justice systems at work in the courts ... one for whites and a very different one for minorities and the poor."

While the collective soul-searching that followed the Los Angeles violence focused on black-white relations, experts on race relations say the racial equation has become enormously more complicated since the 1960s "two nations" warning.

Over the past decade, America's racial and ethnic diversity has increased faster than at any other time in U.S. history, with millions of immigrants from Latin America and Asia.

Now, there are around 29 million blacks, 17.5 million Hispanics and seven million Asians, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Animosities between blacks and Hispanics, admitted by members of both communities, has frequently exploded into violence in Miami, a city with a Hispanic majority. Both blacks and Hispanics often resent Asians for their



success in running small retail stores in poor neighbourhoods. In Los Angeles, shops owned by Koreans were favourite targets

until shopowners armed with pistols and submachine guns began shooting at looters. "If we don't do something serious to solve our problems," said a caller to a radio phone-in programme, "we'll see our cities turning into Beirut."

Cold war over, but not for U.S. and Cuba

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

HAVANA, CUBA — Despite waning ideological rivalries worldwide, relations between Cuba and its big neighbour to the north seem stuck in a deep freeze and may have even worsened since the end of the cold war.

President Bush is intent on bringing additional pressure to bear on Cuba even though President Fidel Castro is no longer in the business of trying to topple foreign governments friendly to the United States.

And with the collapse of the Soviet Union last December, Havana's ties with Moscow ceased to be an issue for Washington for the first time in 30 years. But Mr. Castro's more benign international posture has not lessened U.S. hostility towards Cuba.

In response, Cuba has begun to strike back. There were strong

anti-American overtones at an otherwise festive May Day rally on Friday. Three days earlier, Cuba demanded that the U.N. Security Council look into attacks launched against Cuba by anti-Castro groups armed and openly trained in Florida. Some of these exiles have been captured inside Cuba in recent months.

In addition, Cuba wants Security Council assistance in the extradition of two anti-Castro Cubans wanted here in the bombing of a Cuban civilian flight over Barbados in 1976, killing 73 people.

If the Security Council can take a strong stand against terrorist acts alleged to have been committed by Libya, Cuba reasons, the council should do no less in the case of the Cubana de Aviacion flight almost 16 years ago.

In Washington, meanwhile, Democrats and Republicans both sense that Mr. Castro, with his economy reeling, may now be as

vulnerable as he has been at any time since he came to power in 1959.

The day before Easter, Mr. Bush issued a directive that prevents all vessels that dock at Cuba from making stops at U.S. ports on the same journey.

Since it is often uneconomical for commercial vessels to have only one destination on a given trip, the effect will be to discourage third countries from trading with Cuba.

"Today we are closer than ever to our goal of returning freedom to Cuba," Mr. Bush said in explaining his new measure.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry responded by asserting that the action is devoid of "the least ethical or even diplomatic scruple."

Some U.S. experts see the Bush sanction as a blatant violation of international law.

An additional tightening of the U.S. noose around Cuba is ex-

pected in the form of final congressional approval of an amendment, introduced by Sen. Connie Mack that would prevent U.S. business subsidiaries in third countries from operating in Cuba.

Among other items, Cuba purchases grain from these subsidiaries, but experts here say Cuba should have no difficulty finding alternate suppliers.

Congress is also showing serious interest in a proposal by Rep. Robert Torricelli that would rule out U.S. assistance or free-trade agreements with any country that provides aid to Cuba.

Mr. Torricelli says Mr. Castro's long history of hostility towards the United States "has convinced me that we will never persuade Castro to initiate a process of transition."

"But we do need to convince the Cuban people that it is only his repressive regime to which the U.S. government is hostile."

LETTERS

Not just smoking

To the Editor:

The last thing that would come to mind is to have the Ministry of Justice, the very ministry charged with the implementation of the laws of the country, commit the mother of all offences by becoming a prime suspect in the violation of these laws. What I have in mind is the law prohibiting smoking in public places that the Ministry of Health has promoted many years ago and codified into law through the efforts of the Ministry of Justice. Well, I respectfully invite the Minister of Justice to pay a short visit to the so-called Palace of Justice and see and smell for himself how the law against smoking in public places is being flouted by presumably law-abiding lawyers in every corner of the "Palace".

Once can understand and even tolerate the dire neglect of the only Palace of Justice that the Kingdom has because of shortages of funds; but to allow it to smell like a bar lounge is something that must not be permitted to continue.

Waleed M. Sadi,
Amman.

King urges all-out effort

(Continued from page 1)

in Jordan as well as those organisations concerned with the safe growth of children. We ought to grant children love for life and awareness as to life's ways and the proper means for achieving objectives in life, safe from fear and other harmful aspects that tend to cause damage to society in the future and render us impotent in our attempts to introduce reform and address situations.

"By giving due care to the young generations we seek to have free, open-minded and tolerant young people capable of standing fast in the face of challenges."

"This approach, coupled with the spirit of responsibility and the sense of national belonging, is badly needed and it is a responsibility which the nation should shoulder."

"You are face to face with a national responsibility which entails providing means to ensure safe childhood in Jordan. Our country has gone a long way in achieving health care and educational services and the achievements in these fields are really a source of pride for all Jordanians."

Over the past thirty years, Jordan has been able to reduce the infant and child mortality rates from 151 per thousand to 37, and it is hoped that the reduction trend will continue to reach at least 20 per 1,000 by the end of the century.

"Jordan has also achieved high levels in child immunisation. Primary health care now reaches 87 per cent of children within one year of their age. We hope to provide this care for all children by the year 2000."

"I am confident that Jordan, which has achieved so much, is able to carry on with this mission through the efforts of its people to attain its noble goals and those of the World Summit for Children."

UNICEF Representative Nigel Fisher noted that Jordan, whose delegation to the World Summit for Children was led by Her Majesty Queen Noor, together with 160 other nations, approved the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Children, outlining priorities and goals for the well-being of children worldwide in the 1990s.

"Included in the plan of action," Mr. Fisher said, "was the promise as the part of each country present to prepare its own national programme of action to accord higher priority to the well-being of its children."

He said that in Jordan, official action on behalf of children is greatly strengthened by the strong national tradition of activism of non-governmental organisations and professional associations on social and humanitarian issues.

Mr. Fisher said that under the guidance of the King, Jordan has become one of the leaders of the Arab World in giving priority for the development of its children.

"Measured by such indicators as the decreasing child-mortality rate, increasing life expectancy, the high rates of school enrollment, literacy and health service coverage and the reduction of educational disparities between girls and boys, Jordan's

progress and achievements outrank most other countries in the region," Mr. Fisher said.

He added that the considerable achievements of the recent past contain in them "the seeds of future challenges."

"Almost two thirds of mortality amongst infants occur in the first four weeks of life and thus demands particular attention to the determinants of mortality amongst newborns," Mr. Fisher said, adding that the quality of health services also becomes an increasingly important issue now that

service coverage is almost nationwide.

He said that the most important challenge to the education system is that of increasing the quality of learning achievement of students in the school system.

Mr. Fisher said that the achievement of rapid nationwide coverage with health, education and other services also demands increasing focus on population pockets in inaccessible areas, which may not have easy access to such services.

The two-day conference includes working papers covering the areas of child health, child education, children and the environment, the impact of culture and information on children, and children with special needs.

The conference which was under the patronage of King Hussein and Queen Noor, was also attended by Her Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir, as well as other ministers and dignitaries.

Minister of Planning, Ziad Fariz said that Jordan is facing an immense challenge in trying to attain that level of care and protection for children that cater to Jordan's aspirations.

"What increases the challenge is the increase in responsibilities at a time when our resources have become scarce," Dr. Fariz said. "About 300,000 out of the returnees to Jordan from the Gulf countries last year are children," he said, adding that this added more pressure on basic services such as health, education and public utilities. "This means that extra effort is necessary to maintain the level of these services in a responsible way in order to attain some of our long-term goals," Dr. Fariz said.

He added that in the area of health the goals include reducing the infant mortality rate, reducing the prevalence of communicable diseases, and overcoming malnutrition among in children below five.

In the area of education, according to Dr. Fariz, the goal is to reduce illiteracy rates, and to increase the enrolment of children in kindergartens. He added that it is also a goal to provide a suitable and clean environment that could contribute positively to the development of children.

According to Dr. Fariz, children with special needs are given priority and the country is making it its business to pursue efforts towards providing special services to at least half of the handicapped children by the year 2000.

Israeli soldier killed in W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

of soldiers accused by human rights groups and Palestinian leaders of deliberately killing activists in the occupied territories.

Critics have accused the army of employing a shoot-to-kill policy in its hunt for Palestinian activists.

The army said that in a four-month crackdown on the West Bank the army had captured 1,400 wanted activists and shot dead 13.

"This shows that our soldiers do not open fire in all situations but only in very selective situations," the army said Sunday.

The shootings came under scrutiny after Israel Television interviewed a man on Friday who said he witnessed undercover soldiers firing at Palestinian activists

in cold blood. The army denied it.

Ministers said army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak was asked at a cabinet meeting on Sunday if the open-fire orders for soldiers confronting Palestinians had been changed.

Radio stations said Lieutenant-General Barak told the cabinet they had not. He said the television report was misleading and gave the impression soldiers had a licence to shoot wanted Arabs.

He said soldiers were allowed to open fire only if their lives were endangered or suspects did not submit to arrest.

Naama Yishuvi, a researcher for the Israeli human rights watchdog B'tselem, said the broadcast had forced the army into a "defensive posture."

Kabul comes under Hezb fire

(Continued from page 1)

possible for shelling the city. Sitting in a half finished house with a tank parked outside, commander Zalmi said his men had repulsed an attack on Sunday from Dostum militiamen about one kilometre up the straight road to Kabul.

Zalmi, who was sitting within sight of the centre of the city he has not visited for 10 years, said: "We are just waiting for orders. We can attack any place."

Posters of Mr. Hekmatyar stuck to the electricity poles and damaged buildings mark his territory which is defended by small knots of fighters lurking behind walls armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and rocket launchers.

Just down the road are the feared

militiamen whose removal from Kabul is a key Hekmatyar condition. Stuck in the middle are a few men who have stayed on to try and protect their property from looters after sending their families to safety.

Burhamuddin Rabbani, a Mujahideen leader who is due to take over as president in two months' time, drove into Afghanistan on Monday headed for Kabul with about 1,500 fighters, guerrilla sources said.

Mr. Rabbani leads the Jamiat-Islami party to which Mr. Masood belongs.

Also leaving with him from the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar was Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leaders of the Harakat-Infqab-i-Islami party, the sources said.

13 sentenced to death in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

have been unconfirmed allegations they were recruited by networks based in third countries, including in Europe.

An Islamic fundamentalist student movement meanwhile, called for an unlimited strike in Algeria's universities from Tuesday and anarchists started fires at two provincial universities.

The official news agency APS said four offices set ablaze at Constantine

University before dawn on Monday contained files. Algerian Radio said little damage had been caused.

Fire destroyed part of the agronomy department at Soumaa University in Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, overnight, APS said. Part of the nearby Souk Al Fellah market was also set ablaze.

Late on Sunday, anarchists tried to set fire to another Blida University building but only the doors were damaged, APS said.

Shamir rules out Palestinian state

(Continued from page 1)

negotiating point by Palestinians during the current peace talks. Thousands of Likud supporters packed into a convention hall heard a selection of recorded speeches by the late Menachem Begin, the first Likud leader to gain power in 1977. Mr. Begin's son Benny, who is a member of Israel's parliament and who is one of the directors of the campaign, received a standing ovation.

The Labour Party and its leader, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, were heavily attacked at the opening. Mr. Shamir

said the Labour Party was "gripped with panic and fear" because the Likud government had succeeded in bringing about Middle East peace negotiations.

Likud supporters screamed "the drunk" at each mention of Mr. Rabin's name. Mr. Rabin has denied persistent rumours that he is a heavy drinker. Likud leaders have avoided saying whether or not they will make Mr. Rabin's rumoured problem a campaign issue.

Israel Radio reported that in reply, the Labour Party said "even cosmetics cannot cover up a Likud hangover with slogans and placards."

Murder mystery compounded

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf crisis. His two sons were working at another private sector establishment here.

The senior source said police found "certain writings and names" scribbled in chalk on the walls and cupboards of the Karim residence.

"These writings indicate revenge as a motive," said the source. "The implication is that one or more members of the family spied on Palestinians in Kuwait and passed on information to Kuwaitis, who in turn killed, imprisoned or tortured those Palestinians for alleged collaboration with the Iraqi occupation forces."

"Obviously the assailant(s) held the family responsible for the death of those Palestinians, if we are to go by this interpretation," he added.

"We are neither ruling out nor accepting that this could be the motive; it could very well be a red herring," said the source. "Our inquiries so far have turned out little evidence to support or dismiss the possibility that the family members were informers as alleged."

However, police are trying to verify the identity of the people whose names were found written on the walls describing them as "martyrs" killed at the hands of Kuwaitis, according to the source. "That is one of the many avenues of our investigations."

It was not immediately clear how many "names" were found written on the walls and cupboards, along with a large scribbling, which reportedly said "Palestinian revolution."

According to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as well as many international human rights organisations, several hundred Palestinians were killed by Kuwaitis in post-war Kuwait for their support for Iraq and alleged collaboration with the Iraqis during their seven-month occupation of the emirate between August 1990 and February 1991.

The murders in Amman have sent shockwaves through the Jordanian capital, which does not have a history of organised crime or mysterious multiple killings.

The government, in line with an instruction from His Majesty King Hussein, has named a three-member judicial inquiry commission and Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul Monday issued an appeal to the public to cooperate with the panel.

The minister also said that the only person authorised to release information in the inquiries was the head of the commission.

Public Security Director-General Fadel Ali Fheid is expected to meet the press soon for a general review of crimes in Jordan.

Los Angeles limps back to normal

(Continued from page 1)

riot from the pulpit. "We have to forgive those who have been violent and pray for them. We have to use this tragedy as a chance for renewal," the Rev. Jang Kyun told the Central Evangelical Church congregation in Koreatown, where many stores were set upon by arsonists and looters.

Cardinal Roger Mahony, Roman Catholic archbishop of Los Angeles, urged looters to return merchandise to parishes, no questions asked.

"If we're going to rebuild the city, we have to clear the slate," he said at mass. "We don't care what it is, just bring it back."

A telephone tip triggered a series of police raids that yielded more than three truckloads of looted goods.

Courts held rare Sunday sessions to arraign some of the nearly 11,400 people arrested in the violence touched off by the acquittal of four white policemen in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney

King.

Besides the 47 killed, more than 2,300 people were injured. Damage was put at \$717 million. The death toll surpasses the 43 killed in the 1967 Detroit riots. In 1917, race riots in East St. Louis, Illinois, claimed 48 lives.

Restrictions on city bus service in South Central were lifted Sunday. "It's progressing towards quiet and normal," said highway patrol officer Esmeralda Loos. "We're ready in case things take a turnabout, but we're hoping for the best."

In one neighbourhood, dozens of people applauded and cheered as police took two people into custody after finding huge amounts of stolen goods stashed in their apartment.

The neighbours said they were acting to counter the city's image of a haven for bootlegging and lawlessness.

During the looting — much of which was photographed by news crews and broadcast worldwide — the rioters made little attempt to hide

their identities.

In many cases the looters drove their cars to the front of the stores they burglarised and then pulled away. Sometimes waving goodbye to news cameras.

Municipal courts held rare weekend sessions to process the accused, but the courts were able to handle only about 500 cases per day.

The state supreme court took the emergency measure of extending the time suspects can be held without being formally charged to 96 hours from 48 hours.

"It's community resentment that comes from anger and injustice. The people are fed up with how they've been treated," said the Reverend Carl Washington at St. Mark's Baptist Church in south Los Angeles, one of the hardest-hit areas.

Governor Pete Wilson said Los Angeles police underestimated the potential for violence after the King verdict, and said he was determined to find out why it took 12 hours longer than necessary for the deploy-

ment of national guardsmen. Police chief Daryl Gates' account of his attendance at a political event the night the riots broke out does not jibe with a videotape of the fund-raiser.

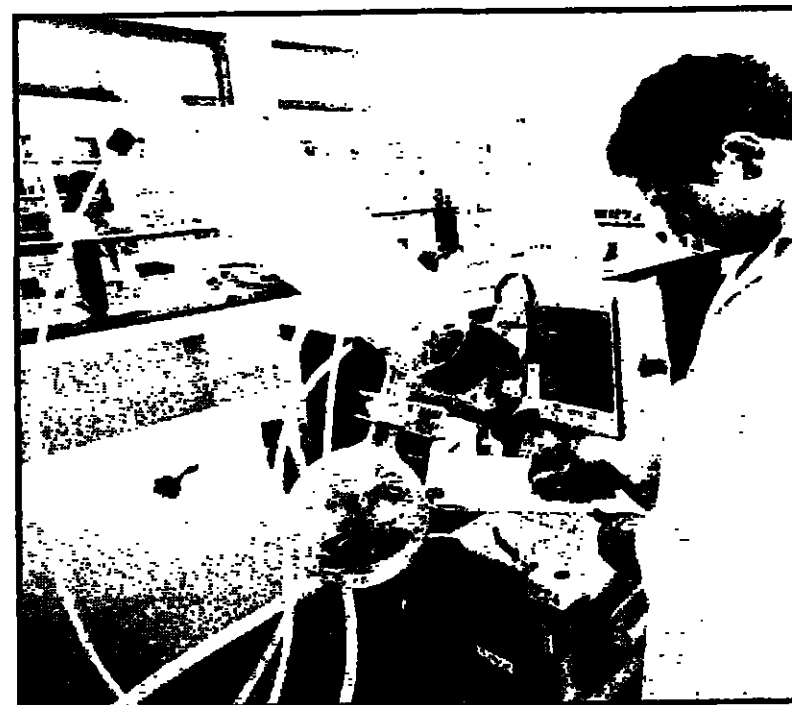
Mr. Gates acknowledged on Sunday's "Face the Nation" on CBS that he should have stayed at his post Wednesday night rather than go to the event for a group that opposes an initiative on the June 2 ballot that would overhaul the police department.

"But he said he stayed only five minutes and the fund-raiser was very close to South Central."

"I simply went over, excused myself, and left," he said.

A videotape of Mr. Gates' remarks at the fund-raiser showed he stayed about a half-hour, The Los Angeles Times reported Monday. The fund-raiser was in Brentwood, about 25 kilometres west of the riot-torn area.

Film stars Sean Penn, Angelica Huston and Edward James Olmos picked up brooms to help in the clean-up, while other actors, including Beau Bridges, James Woods and Louis Gossett Jr., helped distribute food to thousands of homeless.



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Cruyff accuses Barcelona players of blowing away league title

LONDON (R) — Exasperated Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff has accused his players of throwing in the towel and lacking the heart to defend their Spanish League title.

"We've blown it," coach Cruyff said after they dropped a point with a poor performance in a 1-1 draw at home to Real Burgos Sunday. "We've lost all hope after the last five or six matches."

Club Chairman Jose Luis Nunez agreed: "We're giving the league away. This isn't the same Barcelona as other years."

Barcelona, their minds focused more firmly on the European cup than the three-way battle for the title, are four points adrift of Real Madrid after losing two and drawing two of their last six games. Real are unbeaten in their last seven.

Barcelona's recent run of poor form has coincided with their reaching the final of the European Cup in which they meet Italy's Sampdoria.

It has left Madrid clubs Real and Atletico to fight it out by themselves, and with five games remaining, players in both teams are claiming the title is theirs.

Atletico Madrid, who leapfrogged over Barcelona into second place three points behind Real after their 1-0 win over Seville, are brimming with confidence.

"We're playing fabulously at the moment," Portuguese striker and captain Paulo Futre said. "The league is ours, it's getting clearer all the time."

Some Real Madrid players are equally sure they have the title wrapped up after their 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza.

"I think the league is ours," defender Miguel Lasa said. "We've been favourites all along."

But striker Emilio Butragueno was more wary. "Atletico still have a chance," he said.

With just three matches to play in the German first division, Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart and Borussia Dortmund remain locked in the tightest title race for years.

Dramatic late goals kept Eintracht and VfB neck-and-neck in the intense race Saturday as Borussia Dortmund lost vital ground after just managing to snatch a draw.

Eintracht, bidding for their first German title for more than 30 years, held on to their top spot with a 3-0 victory over struggling Duisburg.

They still lead only on goal difference from VfB who hit three goals in the last 13 minutes to save their skins and secure a 3-1 victory in their local derby with Stuttgart Kickers.

Eintracht's coach Dragoslav Stepanovic was happy his team had kept cool under pressure.

"I knew it was going to be a very tough game," he said. "What is important is that we stayed calm, tried everything and were rewarded for it."

Unbeaten AC Milan have the champagne on ice ready to celebrate the Italian League title at Naples next week where they need just one point against Napoli to make sure of a championship which has seemed their destiny for several weeks.

Their 2-0 defeat of Lazio Sunday dismissed the faint hopes of their main rivals Juventus.

With a six-point lead over Juventus, who were held to a 0-0 home draw by outgoing champions Sampdoria, Milan now need only one point from their final three games to be mathematically certain of the title.

Despite having effectively won the title, the Milan elite were not celebrating.

Club president and owner Silvio Berlusconi said ironically: "At this stage we have a fairly good chance of winning the title."

Milan coach Fabio Capello likewise chose to understate things, saying: "I'm very pleased with the position reached by my side."

Watching in the San Siro stands was French striker Jean-Pierre Papin of Marseille, who will play for Milan next season and who was full of his praise for the team.

"I think I will do very well in this team," he said.

Juventus patron Gianni Agnelli denied persistent media rumours that Juventus have bought Sampdoria striker Gianluca Vialli for next season.

Valli said: "No, next year I will not be playing for Juventus, my desire is to stay with Sampdoria, even if in this life you can never tell what will happen next."

Marseille, who rested Papin for Tuesday's French Cup semifinal in Bastia, celebrated their fifth title with a 1-0 win at Lille in their last league match of a season in which they collected a string of records.

Their fourth consecutive title equaled St. Etienne's record, they finished with the fewest defeats ever in a first division season (three) and the fewest goals conceded (31).

The Dutch first division drew 2.45 million spectators this season, 220,000 fewer than last year and recorded a total of 831 goals, one more than last season. Referees issued 35 red cards and 618 yellow cards.

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JORDAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fifth week of soccer's first division championship ended Sunday with no surprises or real upsets but a disappointment at the inconsistency of the top teams who have so far failed to hold on to an expected standard of play. There were also no winners this week as all four matches ended in a draw.

Newcomers to the division, Yarmouk Amman, Sunday drew 1-1 with Al Qadissieh in their match played at Al Hussein Youth City in Amman.

The other newcomers, Sahab, also drew Saturday with Al Faisali. Sahab had a tight defence and effectively guarded their goal preventing Al Faisali from scoring until a 73rd minute goal from Khaled Awad which gave Al Faisali a 1-0 lead.

However a last minute goal by Sahab stunned Al Faisali and ended the game in a 1-1 draw.

In another match titleholders Al Wihdat again failed to score a win as they drew 1-1 with Al Ahli.

Al Ahli scored the match's first goal in the 32nd minute, after they easily penetrated Al Wihdat's defence. A change of tactics enabled Al Wihdat to attack more effectively but that was not the reason they scored their equalising goal, but a defensive error from Al Ahli.

Meanwhile at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid, bottom of the division Al Arabi managed to end their match against Al Ramtha in another 1-1 draw.

Al Ramtha had many chances to score had it not been for the agility and alertness of Al Arabi's goalkeeper, as the first half ended scoreless.

Al Ramtha scored their goal in the 72nd minute, but Al Arabi quickly equalised as Ayman Al Omari enabled his team to gain their first point in the overall standings when he scored the equalising goal in the 82nd minute.

In the upcoming matches Al Arabi plays Sahab Wednesday, Al Wihdat plays Al Qadissieh Thursday, while Al Hussein plays Yarmouk Amman and Al Ahli clashes against Al Faisali Friday.

The Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) has this year organised the match schedule in a compressed manner so as to enable the teams to prepare for and participate in competitions abroad, as well as to prepare the national team for the Arab sports tournament due to be held in Syria in September.

The first round of the first division championship, which began on April 16, will last until June 5. The second round will begin on June 25 and will end on Aug. 3.

Nine teams are participating in the championship this season, but the JSF has decided to reduce that number to eight as of next season as three teams will be relegated to the second division this year.

STANDINGS

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Ramtha	3	2	—	10	3	8
Al Hussein	2	2	—	8	5	6
Al Faisali	1	3	—	5	4	5
Al Qadissieh	1	3	1	5	4	5
Al Ahli	1	3	—	3	2	5
Al Wihdat	1	2	1	6	5	4
Sahab	—	3	2	6	10	3
Yarmouk Amman	1	1	2	4	8	3
Al Arabi	—	1	4	5	11	1

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Auriol stretches Corsica Rally lead

AJACCIO (R) — France's Didier Auriol moved into top gear in the Tour of Corsica Rally Monday to stretch his lead over compatriot Francois Delecour to 14 seconds after eight stages. Auriol, three times winner of the Corsican leg of the World Championship, set record times in his Lancia in the first four stages of the second day of the race, on winding and steep mountain roads. Delecour, whose Ford was trailing Auriol's Lancia by only two seconds at the start, could not match his compatriot's pace. But the Ford driver managed to remain in contention. Toyota drivers, on the other hand, lost precious ground. Germany's Armin Schwarz was fourth, one minute 23 seconds behind, while former world champion Carlos Sainz of Spain trailed Auriol by almost two minutes.

Graf wins 6th consecutive Hamburg title

HAMBURG (AP) — Steffi Graf got out to a quick 4-0 lead and then hung on for a 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain Sunday to win the Citizen Cup — her 63rd career title. With a backhand slice, power serve and new varied, full-court strategy, the top-seeded Graf appeared headed for an easy victory. But Sanchez, who rallied after a first-set loss to beat Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals Saturday, again halted her opponents momentum with passing shots to win three of the next four games and force the tiebreaker. After Graf prevailed in the 62-minute first set, she needed only 33 minutes more to complete the victory — her sixth straight title in Hamburg. "When I look back I'm very satisfied with myself. I won the tournament for the sixth time and did the right thing at every phase of the game, especially in the final," said the victorious Graf. The win was Graf's 12th in 14 matches against Sanchez. It was her second title this year along with Boca Raton.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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A TOUCH OF LARCENY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 6 3	♠ 10 7 5 4	♠ 10 7 5 4	♠ 10 7 5 4
♥ 9 7 4	♥ 10 9 8	♥ 10 9 8	♥ 10 9 8
♦ K Q 5	♦ K Q 5	♦ K Q 5	♦ K Q 5
♣ Q J 10 8 4	♣ Q J 10 8 4	♣ Q J 10 8 4	♣ Q J 10 8 4
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ J 9 2	♠ J 9 2	♠ J 9 2	♠ J 9 2
♥ K Q 6	♥ K Q 6	♥ K Q 6	♥ K Q 6
♦ A 6 2	♦ A 6 2	♦ A 6 2	♦ A 6 2
♣ A K 7 3	♣ A K 7 3	♣ A K 7 3	♣ A K 7 3

The bidding: South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

There are bridge players who would not indulge in falsecarding for all the tea in China. Then there are others who would rather try a bit of larceny than rely on a legitimate line.

North's raise to two no trump was justified by the reasonable five-card club suit. With 17 points, almost all prime, South had just enough to accept.

West led the jack of diamonds, and declarer won in dummy with the king as East followed with the three. There were only eight fast tricks to be had, and the best shot for a ninth

would be to lead a heart at trick two. If the ace was with East, there was a reasonable chance the defender would follow low. And if either defender took the ace immediately, a spade shift might not be clear.

However, declarer was one of those characters who like nothing better than to horsewoggle the defenders. So at trick two, declarer led a spade from the table and put in the ace!

West won the queen and continued with a diamond, again won on the board. Now declarer tried a heart to the king. West took the ace and, blind to what was happening, persevered with diamonds. Declarer wasted no time in cashing five club tricks and the queen of hearts for the contract.

We hope West learned a lesson from this. When declarer doesn't try to establish a long suit in dummy, it is usually because there is no need to—the suit is running. Therefore, West should have concluded that, if declarer held the ace of spades, the contract couldn't be beaten. The only chance was if East held the ace of spades and there were enough tricks in the suit to sink the contract. So West should have ignored declarer's bit of deception and, after winning the queen of spades, continued with king of spades and another.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 5, 1992

Daimler — Benz plans to slash 20,000 jobs

BONN, Germany (AP) — Daimler-Benz, maker of the prestigious Mercedes cars, plans to trim 20,000 jobs over the next two years, a newspaper has quoted Mercedes' chief as saying. The cuts would be the first in Mercedes' history. Werner Niefer, president of the Mercedes-Benz subsidiary of the Daimler-Benz conglomerate told Die Welt the cuts will be made through attrition and early retirements. He said the outbacks are part of a package aimed at making Mercedes more competitive with Japanese automakers, whose cars are gaining in popularity in Germany. Other planned measures include more efficient management of machine operation times. Die Welt said. Mercedes, based in Stuttgart, employs about 180,000 people in Germany. Mr. Niefer said much of the job-culling will take place in the administrative area, where cuts can be made with a minimal impact on customers.

Los Angeles riots cause estimated damages of \$1b

LOS ANGELES (R) — The looting and burning of thousands of Los Angeles businesses will deal a harsh blow to California's struggle to revive its sagging economy, business and civic leaders said. The riots caused at least \$550 million in damage, leaving 10,000 buildings looted, burned or destroyed in the state's largest city. But the cost could rise to over \$1 billion when lost jobs and merchandise are figured in.

"The looters looted jobs" from their communities, said former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, whose was named Saturday to head a public-private partnership to rebuild the riot-ravaged city.

California's powerhouse economy, the eighth-largest in the world, once was touted as recession-proof. But the Golden State's Midas touch has suffered a string of bad luck, from last week's riots to devastating earthquakes.

Even before the riots, the state suffered the loss of at least half a million jobs as businesses fled high taxes, rising costs and growing regulations.

The state's largest corporations, including drug store chains and huge oil companies whose shops and service stations were burned by arsonists, are already reassessing their presence in the hard-hit areas.

"We will realise a substantial loss on this," said Chris Benet, a

vice president of Thrifty Corp., a drug and sporting goods chain that lost five stores to fires while 14 others were looted.

Experts said unemployment among men in south-central Los Angeles, where the riots erupted, was likely to rise from the current level of 15 per cent.

"It will go to at least 20 per cent now," one local business leader said. And a lack of jobs is a key factor in the rage that led to the rioting, community leaders said.

"If they had any employment they wouldn't have burned down those stores," said Pastor Lovely Haynes of St. Mark's Baptist Church as he surveyed the smouldering ruins of shops nearby.

Over the last 10 months California lost more than 500,000 jobs while 600,000 people moved to the state, a local council on competitiveness reported.

For many small business owners, the dream of hard work rewarded by financial independence may have gone up in smoke along with their smouldering shops.

Small business accounts for one-third of Los Angeles County's \$236 billion-a-year economy. There are more than 200,000 small businesses in the city — from Korean grocery stores to machine shops.

The tourist trade, the second-biggest industry in Los Angeles County, also may face a slump as vivid images of racial violence scare off visitors. Los Angeles has already lost, at least temporarily, its largest Japanese inbound tour operator, the Japan Travel Bureau.

"We don't know yet how long it will take to recover, because the issue isn't resolved yet," said Gary Sherwin of the Los Angeles Convention and Business Bureau.

Only construction, hurt by a lingering slump in housing, faces any prospects of immediate gain as the city rebuilds.

On Saturday President George Bush declared Los Angeles a federal disaster area, opening the way for low-interest loans and other assistance to people who lost businesses and homes.

The loss of jobs and businesses during California's recession have contributed to a growing state budget deficit. State officials predict a deficit of nearly \$4 billion in the fiscal year ended June 30.

Los Angeles alone faces a deficit of nearly \$183 million.

Mr. Ueberroth, who directed the city's preparations for the 1984 Olympic Games, said all of the area's businesses would have to pitch in to help the city recover.

"It's not going to work unless banks and businesses and all parts of the business community, large and small, make a commitment," he said.

Gulf Air asks banks for new \$123m loan

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf Air is borrowing \$123 million from international banks to finance the leasing of two new Boeing 767s, Gulf bankers said Monday.

Bankers said the nine-year financing arrangement — which is renewable for an additional six years — was priced at 1.5 per cent over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

That credit is in addition to a \$144.8 million facility which Gulf Air is seeking to help cover the cost of four Airbus A320 aircraft due to be delivered this year. France's Banque Indosuez is arranging both deals.

Bankers said the two Boeing 767s will be leased to Gulf Air through a complex arrangement involving a joint venture company being set up by the airline and U.S. leasing firm Polaris and another purpose firm set up by Banque Indosuez.

The two aircraft are due for delivery in July and September 1992. Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi, has ordered a total of 18 new aircraft — six Boeings and 12 Airbus A-320s — within a five-year period.

Bankers said the Airbus A-320s would also be leased rather than purchased but did not have details of the arrangements.

They said the \$123 million loan for the Boeing aircraft was being syndicated and would be drawn down in June. The other \$144.8 million credit, which will be guaranteed by European credit agencies, was due to be signed in May.

Mr. Hassan said his commission would also oversee production of refrigerators, freezers, air coolers, stoves and electronic equipment.

Work was underway to produce building materials, car paints, ballpoint pens and agricultural seeds and pesticides, he said.

Mr. Hassan did not say how Iraq, under comprehensive sanctions, would acquire materials needed for the new industries but he said most of the products would be totally Iraqi-made.

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Lebanese lira sinks below 2,000 per dollar

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira sank to a new all-time low against the dollar on Beirut's unofficial market Monday, losing 20 per cent of its value since the last official close.

Bankers said the lira reached 1950/2050 against the dollar on the free market. The central bank failed to trade in the dollar and issued a rate of 1,600 to the dollar for information only.

The market rate meant the lira lost 20 per cent of its value against the dollar since the last official close on Thursday.

Bankers said a lack of confidence in the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Omar Karami was responsible for the collapse in the lira, which set record lows all last week.

"There is absolute chaos in the market," said a banker who declined to be identified. "There is very little trading... there is zero confidence in the government and political situation."

"The central bank does not have enough reserves to enter the market and meet high demand for the dollar," a banker said. "Lebanon cannot defend its currency in a situation like this."

"But sooner or later the central bank will have to accept the market price of the lira to keep credibility," he added.

The Bank of Lebanon spent some \$400 million between last November and February trying to stabilise the lira at 880 to the dollar.

The lira has lost 56 per cent of its value since Feb. 24 when the central bank stopped intervening in the market to defend it because its foreign currency reserves had dropped to some \$650 million.

Iraq to convert arms industry to civilian use

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, forced by U.N. sanctions to scrap weapons of mass destruction, Sunday swore in a new presidential adviser whose brief is to turn its arms-making know-how to meet urgent consumer needs.

Hussein Kamel Hassan, formerly defence minister and minister of heavy industry and military industrialisation, was sworn before President Saddam Hussein as an adviser in charge of the Military Industrialisation Commission.

Mr. Hassan, who once supervised the building of ballistic missiles, chemical and nuclear weapons and a long-range "Supergun," told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) the commission would supply the Iraqi market, hard hit by U.N. sanctions blocking oil exports and external trade, with new civilian products.

These included tractors, trucks, cars, harvesters and electric equipment.

"The commission is now implementing a very huge petrochemical project," he added, without elaborating.

Mr. Hassan said the first Iraqi saloon cars would be produced this year as part of a campaign to build 16,000 vehicles a year and 12,000 tractors.

Iraq, which had good relations with the United States during the war with Iran, concluded an agreement in the late 1980s with U.S.-based General Motors to assemble 30,000 cars a year in 1991.

The project was halted immediately after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

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Central Asian states woo Asian Development Bank

HONG KONG (R) — The central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union are courting the Asian Development Bank (ADB) but bank officials say they are far from receiving the cheap loans they want to rebuild their economies.

Officials from four of the six republics attended the opening day of the ADB annual meeting in Hong Kong Monday as observers, some with high hopes of tapping the bank for cheap or maybe even interest-free credit.

"Soft loans would suit us well," Bolat Khan Taizhanov, an observer from Kazakhstan, told reporters.

But the arrival of the republics, which became independent nations only as the Soviet Union collapsed last year, has raised questions about whether they can even join the Manila-based bank, never mind borrow interest-free.

The republics face major problems. Little is known about their economies and many of the observers, attending the three-day conference to establish contacts, speak no English, the language of international banking.

Some relied on a Russian observer to act as a translator.

"We would certainly like to lend to them," said ADB economist Malcolm Dowling. "They're in our region, they're adjacent to other of our developing members such as Afghanistan and Pakistan."

If the republics joined the bank they would be immediately eligible for technical assistance and normal loans, on which interest must be paid.

"But it's a big if," said Mr. Dowling. Delegates said some Asian countries seemed unenthusiastic about having six new members competing for already scarce loan funds and it was not clear if

they could be members of both the ADB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The republics automatically became EBRD members after the Soviet Union, already a member, fell apart.

Asked whether the republics could be members of both, Mr. Dowling said that would be a political decision which the bank's governors would have to make.

"That sort of decision has never arisen before," he said.

Any decision on the nearly interest-free soft loans, drawn from the bank's Asian Development Fund (ADF), would be years off even if they joined.

"It's a long way away," said Mr. Dowling. They might not even be poor enough to qualify for such loans.

Unlike normal lending, which the ADB funds by borrowing on international capital markets, the ADF relies on grants from donor nations led by Japan.

The latest ADF replenishment last year was just \$4.2 billion, less than half what ADB officials had originally sought. Those funds have already been allocated to existing members.

If the republics joined they would have to wait for a new replenishment several years away, before even having an opportunity to receive such cheap credit.

LIMA (R) — Investor confidence has plummeted in Peru since President Alberto Fujimori seized sweeping powers but economists said Economy Minister Carlos Bolona's decision to stay was a positive step.

Since Mr. Fujimori abruptly dissolved congress and closed the courts on April 5, nervous depositors have withdrawn 155 million new soles (\$145.5 million) from the financial sector, central bank figures show.

Other estimates are higher. The Association of Banks gives a figure of \$200 million while independent economist Roberto Abusada said \$240 million had been retired from the banks.

"It's not really certain if the withdrawals are capital flight or simply people tucking money under their mattresses until the situation becomes clearer," Augusto Alvarez of the Apoyo consulting firm told Reuters.

Before April 5, Peru had been awash in dollars from investors capitalising on high interest rates. Some \$2 billion in capital had entered Peru over the last year, officials say.

In another sign of investor jitters, Lima's stock market has fallen more than 10 percentage points since the suspension of constitutional rule.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times In co-operation with Cairo Annan Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 11/5/92	EUROPEAN OPENING 11/5/92
Sterling Pound*	1.7865	1.7808
Deutsche Mark	1.6405	1.6476
Swiss Franc	1.4995	1.5077
French Franc	5.5330	5.5555
Japanese Yen	132.65	132.83
European Currency Unit	1.2510	1.2463

* USD for S100
European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Interest Rates Dates: 4/5/92

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	5.87	3.93	4.15	4.62
Sterling Pound	10.25	10.18	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.81	8.81	8.56	8.31
French Franc	9.87	9.93	9.93	9.90
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.65	4.59	4.59
European Currency Unit	10.06	10.09	10.00	10.13

Interest rates for currencies exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Dates: 4/5/92

Metal	USD/oz	YIM/Gm*	Metal	USD/oz	YIM/Gm
Gold	337.70	6.65	Silver	4.01	.090

* 21 Karat

Currency Bid Offer Dates: 4/5/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.687	0.689
Sterling Pound	1.2219	1.2280
Deutsche Mark	0.6785	0.6784
Swiss Franc	0.4551	0.4574
French Franc	0.1234	0.1240
Japanese Yen	0.5167	0.5193
Dutch Guilder	0.3702	0.3721
Swedish Krona	0.1154	0.1160
Italian Lira*	0.0554	0.0557
Belgian Franc	0.02029	0.02039

* Per 100

Other Currencies Dates: 4/5/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7940	1.8040
Lebanese Lira*	0.04150	0.04500
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1839
Kuwaiti Dinar	---	---
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1874
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7680
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1874
Greek Drachma*	0.3525	0.3725
Cypriot Pound	1.4770	1.4970

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	5/5/92	Close	29/4/92	Close
All-Share	148.87		147.91	
Banking Sector	108.38		108.14	
Insurance Sector	149.56		149.15	
Industry Sector	205.83		204.38	
Services Sector	189.36		187.50	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

CRYSTAL HEART

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

On Thursday and Friday we have special shows for children at 11 a.m. the film is:

"The Fox and the Hound"

Yugoslav army threatens to kill Bosnian president's bodyguard

SARAJEVO (R) — Artillery fire thundered around the battered Bosnia-Herzegovina capital of Sarajevo Monday as the Yugoslav army demanded the release of soldiers captured in an ambush by Bosnian forces.

European Community (EC) envoy Colm Doyle said the army was threatening to kill a detained bodyguard of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic if the soldiers were not freed. "The mood in the army is very, very tense," he added.

Up to 100 men were believed to have been seized in the ambush Sunday which violated a safe conduct negotiated for them by Mr. Doyle and General John Mackenzie, a representative of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia.

The attack followed a weekend surge of violence in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia, where the Serb minority is fighting the predominantly-Muslim republic's secession from Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said Bosnia was being pushed to the brink of chaos by the rising scale of bloodshed and the collapse of EC-sponsored peace talks between its Muslim, Croat and Serb communities.

Precisely what happened in the attack on the convoy of 15 trucks and about 500 men was unclear, with differing accounts from the Serb-led army and Bosnian au-

thorities.

Bosnian police denied Yugoslav Defence Ministry claims that up to four soldiers were killed, including two colonels shot dead in front of U.N. representatives.

Mr. Doyle confirmed that an attack took place but told Reuters Monday that Gen. Mackenzie had not seen any soldiers being killed and had no independent information of deaths.

The EC and U.N. arranged the safe conduct after the army took Mr. Izetbegovic hostage Saturday. The army demanded the release of General Milutin Kukanjac, the Yugoslav army commander in Bosnia, who was blocked in his Sarajevo headquarters by Muslim gunmen.

Mr. Izetbegovic and Gen. Kukanjac were with the EC and U.N. negotiators at the head of the convoy when it left the headquarters.

Nedeljko Deretic, a photographer of the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug, who was aboard, said it was quickly stopped by armed Muslims.

He quoted Mr. Izetbegovic as telling them: "Don't do anything stupid. I have told these people they will be safe. I have also promised the U.N. I shall resign if anything happens to them."

The Tanjug account said the president then drove off to the presidency building and that part

of the convoy carrying about 100 men was cut off and attacked.

"More than half the vehicles were cut off, surrounded," Gen. Kukanjac said on television. "People were killed, stripped naked, it was horrible."

The military hospital in Sarajevo said it had received 15 wounded soldiers and the bodies of four men killed.

A police official refused to say how many soldiers were being held but he denied that fatalities occurred and said the men surrendered.

Mr. Doyle, clearly angered by the incident, told Sarajevo Television Sunday night: "This leads me to ask the question whether the presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina has control over its security forces."

He described the attack as a "stupid move" by the Bosnians but also attacked the attitude of Gen. Kukanjac.

"I found him unreasonable and he had unreasonable expectations of everything," Mr. Doyle said. "It was his idea of getting 15 trucks and it was unreasonable to think that you get 15 trucks through if you are surrounded by militant Muslims."

Yugoslav authorities accused Mr. Izetbegovic of being party to the attack.

His bodyguard who is under

threat of execution was named as Naruddin Imamovic, who was kept by the army when Mr. Izetbegovic was released.

Mr. Izetbegovic was due to meet Gen. Kukanjac Monday to discuss a truce in the fighting and to renew demands that the army should leave Bosnia where it is regarded as an occupying force by Muslims and Croats.

More than 300 people have been killed and 400,000 have been forced from their homes in the past eight weeks. International mediation to end the fighting has failed.

U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding will arrive in Belgrade later Monday to begin a mission assessing whether U.N. peacekeeping troops should be deployed in Bosnia.

A force of 10,000 U.N. troops is already being deployed in neighbouring Croatia.

In Croatia, Zagreb Radio said 16 people were killed and 60 injured in a federal air force attack at Slavonki Brod on the border with northern Bosnia.

Alien Ivan said by telephone from the town hospital: "The 16 dead are what we know about. There are probably still more dead under the rubble."

Six of the fatalities were children aged from four to 10, he added.



Leonid Kravchuk

Kravchuk faces tough questions on U.S. visit

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk will seek closer political and security ties when he visits the United States this week, but he can also expect tough questions about Kiev's nuclear policies and stormy relations with Russia.

Mr. Kravchuk, on the most crucial foreign trip of his five-month-old presidency, aims to put U.S.-Ukrainian relations on a new footing and drum up support and investment as his country makes the leap from communism to the free market.

But first he must reassure a U.S. administration troubled by lingering uncertainty about the fate of nuclear weapons in Ukraine and unsettled by military and territorial disputes between Kiev and Moscow.

"We shall resolve all questions on nuclear weapons according to the principle that Ukraine will be a non-nuclear and non-aligned state," Mr. Kravchuk told foreign journalists last week, repeating a pledge to remove all atomic weapons by 1994.

Besides Washington, Mr. Kravchuk will travel to Houston, Philadelphia, New York and Iowa, meeting business leaders and representatives of the more than one-million-strong Ukrainian emigre community.

Mr. Kravchuk, who will complete a visit to Turkey before leaving for Washington, plans to sign a series of agreements on trade, investment, scientific cooperation and other fields while in the United States.

"We have the feeling that the United States is now identifying its Ukrainian policies," Mr. Kravchuk said.

"Until now... they conducted policy towards Ukraine through the prism of their policy towards Russia and saw Ukraine within the Russian political system. Now there is a significant change in that attitude."

Mr. Kravchuk said Kiev and Washington agreed that all four ex-Soviet republics with nuclear weapons — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan — would soon become full parties to the U.S.-Soviet START treaty slashing strategic nuclear arsenals.

Russia initially rejected suggestions of broadening the treaty to include the other three nuclear republics but has since said it is discussing the issue with Washington.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

70 killed as house collapses in India

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — A three-story house collapsed Monday, killing at least 70 women who had gathered there to mourn a resident who died last week, officials said. At least 100 people, most of them women, were injured in the crash in Lalbazaar area of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. Paramilitary policemen moved in quickly to rescue many people, witnesses said. Every block in Srinagar is manned by armed policemen, deployed to fight Muslim rebels who want the Muslim dominated Jammu-Kashmir to secede from the predominantly Hindu India. Rescue workers said the wooden floorboards of the building's top floor broke and came crashing down under the weight of about 200 women who had assembled to participate in a mourning ceremony. The wreckage fell on about 100 more women sitting in the middle floor and pierced through the floorboards to the ground floor where a few men were sitting, said chief fireman Abdul Hameed Dar. "There were too many people, the top floor just could not bear the load," Mr. Dar said.

Speaker's return angers Tajik opposition

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Opponents of Communist-style rule in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan have warned of violence after parliament decided to reinstate its sacked speaker. A month of demonstrations by Muslim and Democratic forces in one of the poorest members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forced unpopular parliamentary Speaker Safarali Kenjayev to step down in April. "The situation has been complicated. Now our agreement with the government is broken," said Davlat Uzman, deputy leader of the Islamic Revival Party, referring to parliament's decision. "If it (the government) does not take concrete steps to solve the crisis, I think that clashes are inevitable," he said. "Unfortunately, it has not taken any such steps," added Mr. Uzman, surrounded by bearded men in skull caps and silk coats praying at a half-finished mosque.

Gorbachev visits Reagan's ranch

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev toured Ronald Reagan's ranch Sunday and marvelled that his one-time cold war foe has a personal petrol pump while his own country faces severe shortages. The two former leaders and their wives spent the day chatting about travels, horses and real estate prices and posing for pictures. Mr. Gorbachev, on his first visit to the United States since the collapse of the Soviet Union, shook his head in amazement when shown Mr. Reagan's personal petrol pump at the former U.S. president's ranch in the mountains above this seaside resort. "There are such long lines for gasoline in our country," Mr. Gorbachev's wife Raisa said. Mr. Reagan took Mr. Gorbachev, wearing a cowboy hat, on a tour of his 688-acre (278 hectares) Rancho Del Cielo in a jeep.

Chevenement may run for president

PARIS (R) — Jean-Pierre Chevenement, a rebel Socialist who resigned as defence minister in the Gulf war and opposes the European Community's Maastricht treaty, has hinted that he might run for president to succeed Francois Mitterrand. In a television interview, Mr. Chevenement, 53, called for a new political party which he loosely defined as a citizens' left to respond to new aspirations in French society. The party would eventually aim at gathering all left-wing forces from Communists to Socialists, humiliated in regional elections last March, and would in the meantime take part in elections. "It will need to field candidates; including in the presidential elections," he said. Mr. Chevenement, who reluctantly supervised the dispatch of 15,000 French troops to the Gulf, resigned a few days after the air offensive against Iraq started, saying the war was contrary to France's interests.

Kurile dispute clouds Japan-Russia talks

MOSCOW (R) — The Japanese and Russian foreign ministers have failed to find common ground in efforts to settle a long-standing territorial dispute, the Russian Foreign Ministry said. Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe arrived in the Russian capital Sunday for a three-day visit to prepare for a trip to Japan in September by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Relations have been clouded by a dispute over four islands in the Kurile chain, seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II. "There have been no changes of position on the territorial issue, which remains one of the central problems (in bilateral relations)," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Russian spokeswoman Galina Sidorova as saying after a first round of talks. Mr. Watanabe's talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev were due to resume, followed by meetings with Mr. Yeltsin and Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi.

Seoul students rally against U.S.

SEOUL (R) — South Korean students chanted anti-American slogans outside the U.S. embassy Monday, demanding that Korean residents in Los Angeles be compensated for riot losses. About 50 students yelled "Yankee go home," and "the United States, which can't even solve its racial problems at home, should leave South Korea," outside the gates of the heavily-guarded embassy in the centre of Seoul.

COLUMN

David Bowie marries top model in secret

LONDON (R) — British rock star David Bowie and his girlfriend, Somali-born supermodel Iman, were married at a secret ceremony in Switzerland, London newspapers said Monday. They said Bowie, 46, whose first marriage ended in divorce in 1980, and the 36-year-old model tied the knot in Lausanne town Hall 10 days ago. Iman, who can command thousands of dollars for a day's work, was married for eight years to American basketball star Spencer Haywood. She and multi-millionaire Bowie each have a child from their previous marriages.

Couple weds in riot aftermath

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The bride's wedding dress was stolen, the groom's tux was looted, and the cameraman and limousine service cancelled at the last minute after rioting tore apart south central Los Angeles. But in the love-conquers-all tradition, Victoria Leselle and Roger Compton walked down the aisle in a church fragrant with carnations, white roses and smoke from the fires that nearly ruined their nuptials. One year in the planning and three days in the unmaking, the ceremony at Pilgrim Congregational Church started 45 minutes late. "The most amazing thing was when I saw her walking down the aisle," said Mr. Compton, 37, a truck driver. "Everything we'd gone through the past few days to get there was worth it." The honeymoon will have to come later, though. The couple missed a Mexican cruise because they couldn't get out of their riot-torn neighbourhood in time to rent a car and drive to San Diego to meet the ship. "I'm happy anyway," the new Mrs. Compton, a 28-year-old bus driver, said Sunday. "We just decided we weren't going to let a bunch of ignorant people get in our way. May the 2nd was our day, and nobody was going to stop us."

Replica Viking ships sink off Spain, crew safe

ALICANTE, Spain (R) — Two replica Viking ships sank off southeastern Spain Sunday and their 11 Norwegian crew members were later rescued by search vessels, merchant marine officials said. The ships, the Saga Singlar and the Oseberg, were on their way from the Mediterranean port of Valencia to the Expo 92 Universal Exhibition in Seville when they ran into difficulties in rough weather. Officials said the boats radioed that they were shipping water and later sank. The six crew from the Saga Singlar were picked up by a tug soon afterwards. The five crew of the Oseberg took to an inflatable lifeboat from which they were later rescued by the same tug. The two vessels were to have gone on display at Expo later this month alongside models of the three ships of Christopher Columbus's voyage of discovery to the new world 500 years ago.

In search of Prince Madoc

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Here's a rare bit of Welsh lore: Hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus squinted westward, a Welsh prince sailed across the Atlantic and up the Ohio River and settled near what is now Louisville. Plenty of people in Wales and some in this country believe the legend of Prince Madoc is true. Now it's getting a contemporary exploration from a Welsh filmmaker making a documentary for European audiences. "There's an amazing interest in the legend here, probably as much as in Wales," Russel Isaac, the director, said in a recent interview. Storytellers say Madoc (pronounced May-Dok and spelled Madog in Welsh) left Wales around 1170 and sailed to the Gulf of Mexico. Making his way north on the Alabama and Ohio Rivers, he supposedly built fortresses at strategic points along the way. When the party reached what is now Louisville and nearby Charlestown, the story goes, the group settled 22 kilometres north of today's Louisville at a rocky strip jutting out into the Ohio now known as the Devil's Backbone. Isaac and his crew followed the legend from its origins in Wales and arrived last week in Kentucky to shoot film in and around Louisville and Charlestown. Though the subject of scholarly research and books in this country, no evidence exists that Madoc was here.

Aquino family split heats up campaign

MANILA (R) — A dispute between President Corazon Aquino and her politically powerful brother burst into the open Monday at the start of the final week of a bitter and bloody Philippine election campaign.

The death toll in the run-up to the May 11 polls rose to 27 when gunmen crashed a dance party and shot dead a mayoral candidate in Bacolor town, 50 kilometres north of Manila. The assassins escaped.

The military Monday accused Communist guerrillas of extorting money from candidates campaigning in rebel areas.

"Donations" demanded by the guerrillas ranged from 15,000 pesos (\$800) and one rifle for mayoral candidates to 250,000 pesos (\$9,600) and four armalite rifles for vice-presidential contenders, the military said. It did not say what the figure was for presidential aspirants.

Filipinos are to elect a new president, a new congress and more than 17,000 local officials. Mrs. Aquino's brother congressman Jose Cojuangco, who is

secretary-general of the country's biggest political party, stepped into a growing row over conduct of the campaign, saying he feared the possible reimposition of military rule.

Mr. Cojuangco is backing Speaker of Congress Ramon Mitra, leader of the mainstream LDP, or Filipino Democratic Struggle Party, in defiance of his sister who is campaigning for her former defence chief Fidel Ramos.

Mr. Cojuangco's outburst was triggered by an incident on Saturday in which Gen. Ramos supporters, led by three congressmen, broke into the legislature's printing press and showed reporters tons of Mitra campaign leaflets allegedly being produced there in defiance of election rules.

Gen. Ramos demanded Mr. Mitra's withdrawal from the election while Mr. Mitra accused his rival of using military-style tactics to illegally search the building.

Mr. Cojuangco, who had previously played a low-key role in the campaign in deference to his

sister, vehemently attacked Gen. Ramos for allegedly instigating the break-in.

Mr. Cojuangco, who is standing for reelection as a congressman for Mrs. Aquino's home province of Tarlac, said Mr. Mitra was "now up against desperate men who have a long experience of playing dirty and destroying democracy."

It was clear, he said, that Gen. Ramos would refuse to accept defeat at the polls and could seek to reimpose military rule in the same way as the late Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled under martial law from 1972 to 1981.

His warning followed widespread rumours in Manila that the military could try to take over the government if next Monday's elections did not produce a clear winner.

Unfazed by her brother's attacks, Mrs. Aquino flew to Davao on the southern island of Mindanao and urged voters to support Gen. Ramos, calling him "a winner."

Azeris attack capital of Karabakh

MOSCOW (AP) — Azerbaijani troops launched a major assault Sunday on the capital of disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, killing at least seven people and wounding many more in heavy fighting, officials said.

Among the casualties were two newborn infants and four adults, who died when a shell hit a maternity home in Stepanakert, whose 67,000 residents are almost entirely ethnic Armenians.

An estimated 1,500 Azerbaijani troops were poised on the strategic high ground southwest of the city in the Caucasus Mountains, 2,000 kilometres south of Moscow.

"They may try at any moment to enter the city and seize it. If they see a chance to do it, they won't hesitate a single second," said Levon Melik-Shakhnazarian, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of Nagorno-Karabakh's regional parliament.

"They understand that by entering the city, the republic (of Nagorno-Karabakh) will cease to exist and Armenians will have to go underground and start a guerrilla war," Melik-Shakhnazarian told the Associated Press in Moscow.

The former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been fighting for more than four years for control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Its population is mostly Armenian, but it is located entirely inside Azerbaijan, which was given administrative control over it by the Soviet government in 1923.

Clinton inspects Los Angeles, calls for unity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Clinton inspected riot-ravaged Los Angeles neighbourhoods after strengthening his call for racial harmony with a demand that society do more to combat black-on-black violence.

Mr. Clinton was virtually silent after meeting with community leaders late Sunday in south central Los Angeles, the scene of the worst rioting.

"I listened for two hours and I learned a lot," he told reporters as he left the first news conference. The Arkansas governor, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, was to meet Monday with community activists and tour Koreatown and other neighbourhoods hit hard by the rioting. A meeting with Mayor Tom Bradley was possible but not scheduled early Monday, Clinton aides said.

Mr. Clinton's visit came as relative calm returned to the city that erupted in violence Wednesday after a jury acquitted four white police officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King verdict. National guardsmen Sunday shot and killed a man who tried to run them down, bringing the death toll to 47.

The Bush administration has criticised Mr. Clinton for his response to the crisis. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp, a Republican, issued a statement Sunday attacking Mr. Clinton's campaign for having "reached a new low when he attempted to politicise the tragic situation in Los Angeles and turn it to his

self-perceived political advantage."

Before Mr. Kemp released that statement, Mr. Clinton visited two black churches in the nation's capital and suggested that if he came away from his Los Angeles visit with a plan to help deal with the underlying problems, Mr. Bush might learn from it.

"There's some chance if we come out with an agenda, the current administration will adopt it," Mr. Clinton told reporters. "There's some precedent for that in this election. Maybe by just going there and just coming up with some things that we can do, we'll be able to alter this in a non-partisan way."

Calling black-on-black crime "the scourge of America," Mr. Clinton criticised "the white power structure" for ignoring the damage of such crime.

"If white folk killed white folk like this, all the law enforcement resources in the nation would be available," he said. "When black folk kill black folk like this, we turn away."

During his speeches at the churches, Mr. Clinton urged blacks to sit down with whites "to discuss our common fears, our common concerns."

"White people are often divided from black people because they think crime has a black face," Mr. Clinton said. "But now we find the violence in the schools of the whites as well as the blacks."

Mr. Clinton picked up two of six delegates while collecting 49 per cent of the votes cast in the presidential caucus in the U.S.

territory of Guam.

The four other delegates and one alternate are uncommitted, according to election results reported Sunday.

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown got 20 per cent of the vote, while 31 per cent of the 1,020 votes cast were uncommitted.

Saturday's turnout set a record, with more than 300 new Democrats registered in the process, said Dan Tydingco, executive director of the Guam Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, hustling back and forth between the small cities that dot North Carolina in preparation for Tuesday's presidential primary, Patrick Buchanan hopes to follow the path Ronald Reagan took 16 years ago.

It was here in 1976 that the state's unpredictable conservative Republican voters handed Mr. Reagan a surprise victory over incumbent President Gerald Ford. That wasn't enough to stop Mr. Ford's nomination, but the victory breathed political life back into Mr. Reagan, who survived to win another day.

"Lightning struck once here. He's hoping it will strike again," said Ted Arrington, a Republican activist and political science professor.

But more than the calendar is different this time. The state's top Republican, four-term Sen. Jesse Helms, backed the challenger

but is supporting President Bush this time.

Though his endorsement seems to be a cool embrace, Sen. Helms

alone can spell the difference. While some of his conservative followers may be backing Mr. Buchanan, Sen. Helms' massive money-raising and sophisticated political organisation hasn't been available to the Republican challenger.

In the Democratic race Mr. Clinton has made only a few brief stops in the state, his nomination fight all but over.

"He's going to take this state in a big way on Tuesday," said state Democratic Chairman Herbert Hyde.

But as easy a time as Mr. Clinton expects Tuesday, North Carolina also represents the difficulties he faces in the fall. It's a state where he should enjoy natural appeal, as a fellow southerner and a pragmatic governor whose record on jobs and education neatly matches that of the last Democratic governor here, Jim Hunt.

Yet greeting Mr. Clinton when he stopped in Chapel Hill Friday was a fresh Mason-Dixon pool in a race with Mr. Bush and Texas Billionaire Ross Perot. The poll, published by the Greensboro News and Record, had Mr. Bush at 38 per cent, Mr. Perot at 26 per cent and Mr. Clinton at 26 per cent, with a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

"I haven't campaigned here," Mr. Clinton said in dismissing the finding. "Ross Perot hasn't gotten the publicity I have, and that's bad."

Americans appalled by rioting but split on racial component

NEW YORK (AP) — Dismay over the Rodney King verdict and horror over the Los Angeles rioting are sentiments that unite most Americans, but public opinion is divided over the state of racial justice, polls and interviews show.

A Time Magazine-Cable News Network poll released Sunday found 43 per cent of whites believe the nation's criminal justice system favours whites over blacks, but 84 per cent of blacks feel that way. About half the blacks polled, but less than one-fourth of the whites said that in an everyday encounter with police they risked being treated unfairly.

The acquittal of four white policemen charged with the videotaped beating of a black motorist shook a nation that traditionally has abiding faith in its courts' fairness.

"It was a complete farce, because only an ignorant person could let those police off the hook for what they did, for almost murdering a man in the street," said Steve Karpin, 39, a bus driver for the State University of New York at Albany. Mr. Karpin, who is white, was one of dozens of people interviewed across the nation over the weekend by Associated Press reporters.

Many seemed to share the perception of unfairness in the system that has driven people to protest in the street, sometimes violently, since Wednesday's verdict.

"I think it was appalling, the verdict they came up with," said Sandy Ebbens, 45, a homemaker in Hamburg, Iowa.

"Although I never condone any kind of violence, I can see and feel their anger, I can understand why they're so angry. It's too bad they feel they have to express it like this, but when the justice system doesn't hear you, how else can you get through?"

"I think black people don't get a fair shake," said Portland, Oregon, construction worker Bert Fox, 41. "The tension was tight and it snapped."

Polls show a gap in thinking

between blacks and whites not over whether the verdict was wrong, but whether a deeper problem, racism, is involved.

In an ABC News-Washington Post poll Thursday, 89 per cent of black Americans but just 43 per cent of whites said the criminal justice system fails to treat minority groups equally with whites. Three in four blacks agreed that the verdict "shows that blacks cannot get justice in this country," but only one in four whites felt that way.

Carl Norton, 35, a black security guard in Jackson Mississippi, said the trouble won't end until we "learn to love each other and get the justice system straight."

Brenda Connor, 22, a white bartender in Albany, New York, said she couldn't understand the verdict. "I think it was wrong. The evidence was there, they had a videotape and I thought it was locked, sealed, guilty." But like others interviewed, she was suspicious of the rioters' motivations, saying, "I think some of them are using this as an excuse to loot."

A Newsweek poll taken Thursday and Friday found that 79 per cent of whites, and 74 per cent of blacks think the violence was unjustified.

"Everyone was upset with the verdict," said Cathy Haggen, 30, a Portland, Oregon, bank teller. "But now it's a good excuse for gang members and other opportunists to loot and not be caught."

Meanwhile, children reacted differently to the fire and fury in their streets. But all asked the question no one could fully answer — why?

"What can I say to that?" asked Aura Reba, mother of four. "We are all so scared. We are so lost."

Even the experts who will advise Los Angeles County teachers how to comfort the children had no answer.

"Looting — how does anybody make sense of that?" asked John Hatakeyama of the Children and Youth Services Bureau of the County Health Department. "I don't think there's an

answer to the why questions. What we need to do is let adults and children express their feelings about what's happened. We need to talk about it."

The children have a lot to say. Asked to describe the fires, Gustavo, 6, stands on his apartment house stoop and points all around him: "They were over there, over there, over there."

He was so scared of the flames that he became ill, said his mother, Rosa Ruiz.

Donell, 7, watched on television as boys his own age looted neighbourhood markets with their parents. "That's wrong," he said.

His mother, Mae Moore, talked to him about police brutality, racism and justice. She told him those weren't the only reasons for looting.

"I said some people looted simply because they needed things so bad," she said. "A lot of people are out of jobs. A lot of people have no place to live."

Donell, who is black, walked with his parents through the ruins of their neighbourhood, watching wisps of smoke rise from a charred grocery. "Black power" was spray painted on one wall.

"It's going to have a lasting effect on him the rest of his life, but it might make him stronger," said his father, Larry Moore.

"This is something I never could have imagined, and he's already had to deal with it."

Mr. Hatakeyama of the Health Department talked of temporary wounds, not lasting scars.

He said the trauma probably will aggravate children's existing problems — bed-wetting, thumb-sucking, aggressive behaviour, shyness. Some children may become terrified of the dark or cling constantly to their parents.